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THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17TH, 2016

High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY
...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE - PAGES 19-23

VISIT COWBRIDGE THIS CHRISTMAS
A Magical Festive Experience
See Pages 25-28

COWBRIDGE SAYS: 'WE WILL NEVER FORGET'



This was the scene in Cowbridge on Sunday, as record numbers turned out to join the Remembrance Day Parade, and to attend the service at Holy Cross Church.

Many people remarked on the number of young people who took part, and this is confirmed by the photographs, by Mike Wilcock, on page 4.

Traders plan fight over shock business rate rise

THE row over the proposed rise in business rates for traders in Cowbridge is continuing to gather pace.

After a BBC news report indicating that the towns of Monmouth and Brecon were reporting a similar proposed rise, a film crew from ITV Wales was in Cowbridge last Thursday, highlighting the concerns of local traders.

Sally Stephenson of The Pencil Case is co-ordinating the campaign and she told The GEM that they now had support from a wide group of political

parties. It appears that this UK Government-organised business rate revaluation has caught the Welsh Government on the hop.

Initial queries on this issue were met with the response that small businesses in Wales could expect a cut in rates – but a few areas look set to buck that trend.

Similarly, Assembly spokespeople have quoted a three-year transitional funding plan, which would help businesses cope as the increase is phased in.

As business owners in Cowbridge have told The GEM, the problem is the rise, and if that rise kicks

in after three years, instead of next spring, it will still be serious for shops.

The Cowbridge traders have now formed a working party, and are considering a range of options, including a public petition to the Senedd, and working together with other towns that have been affected.

Top of the list, however, is to arrange a meeting with Mark Drakeford, the Assembly Cabinet Secretary for Finance and Local Government, to brief him on the consequences of this proposal.

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GREAT WAR: THE TRUE TOLL

WHILE I appreciate Alun Cairns MP's article about the sacrifice of those who fought for our country, I felt I should point out that his reference to the Battle of Mametz Wood in 1916 is not quite accurate.

Mr Cairns states that '4,000 Welsh soldiers were killed'. Happily, this is not the case. I think what he has done is to confuse the total casualties, killed, wounded and missing, with those who were actually killed.

The figures normally given for the battle are 602 killed, 585 wounded, and 2,806 missing, thankfully a much lower figure for those killed – although, doubtless, many of the missing were, in fact, dead.

I do think it is important that your readers are aware of the true figures: casualties in the First World War were bad enough without making them sound worse. In the whole battle of the

Somme, from July to mid November 1916, the British Army lost about 120,000 killed and 300,000 wounded and missing.

To put this in context, it is as if everyone in the Vale of Glamorgan had been killed and nearly everyone in Cardiff had been wounded or vanished in four and a half months.

French losses are thought to be in the order of 200,000 and modern historians think German losses were about equal to those of the Allies.

And before people talk about World War One generals being 'butchers and blunderers' – in the three months fighting after D-Day until the German retreat, Allied losses were about 210,000 killed, wounded and missing.

As fewer troops were involved this, proportionately, just as heavy as the Battle of the Somme. Perhaps the real lesson should be that people should only fight wars as a last resort.

Gavin Davies,
Penmark.

Thank you to the town's volunteers!

THIS week I have been reminded, yet again, how lucky we are to live in this lovely area of the Vale.

The wonderful display of poppies in all our buildings has been better than ever and especially the poppies on our posts.

Each one tells a sad, yet inspiring, account of a local individual who gave up his life in war. The research and detail that makes them so moving has been done by Mr David Howells and the British Legion – so we thank you.

On Friday, November 4, the Cowbridge Rugby Club hosted their usual Bonfire night. A great deal of work in preparing for the festivities was followed

next day by the clearing up! The most difficult part of this was to ensure that the pitch was clear of all the small pieces of debris from the rockets and removed so that it was safe for players.

This was done by small band of workers, on hands and knees, over the whole pitch. Well done to them!

All the work above has been done by volunteers and there are numerous examples of work done by volunteers throughout the town – the helpers in our charity shops, the people who do regular litter collecting, to mention just a few. They all make Cowbridge such a good place to live – so thank you to all volunteers!

Gwen Baty,
Cowbridge.

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• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

VOTE, VOTE, VOTE ...AND THEN OVERTURN IT!

IT was with a sense of relief that we have survived the week since the Gibbonsdown by-election without riots and mass protests at the result, as appears to be the norm following any vote in recent times.

We have seen this phenomenon in the UK when the Tories won the last election; and still we have the many and varied protests and legal challenges seeking to overturn the wishes of the 17 million voters who voted to leave the EU – with the likelihood of more to come.

America is now suffering this erosion of democracy, too, with the anti-Trump riots. Like him or loathe him, he was elected democratically.

This said, I'm now expecting to read in the next issue of The GEM that the richest person in Glamorgan has used their wealth to begin legal action to overturn the decision of the Gibbonsdown electorate. It seems to have been proven in the High Court that if you have enough

money, you can make anything go away – from a speeding fine, to the democratic wishes of 17 million voters who want to leave the EU.

Gibbonsdown, it seems, has been Labour almost forever; which brings me to tribal voting: following the legal action by Gina Miller, MPs will be voting on triggering Article 50 to initiate Britain leaving the EU, rather than the elected Government (eventually) automatically actioning it.

This could result in a spring election, if the 450 MPs in Westminster overturn the wishes of 17 million voters.

I'm curious as to whether tribal voters, who have voted for their particular political colour all of their adult life, will vote for that colour, regardless of the candidate's stance on leaving the EU.

Or whether they will vote for a candidate, regardless of political colour, who has the same view on EU membership as themselves?

Ade Pitman, Barry.

How music can change young lives

THE lives of children living in deprived circumstances can be radically transformed – by teaching them how to play an orchestral instrument.

At our Churches Together in Cowbridge and District autumn lecture on October 28 in the United Free Church, the audience heard from Rev Jan Gould, a professional musician, about her project,

Donations appeal for the refugees

I AM collecting coats and shoes for Oasis in Cardiff, an organisation that aims to help refugees and asylum seekers integrate into the local community.

If you are buying a new coat or jacket, perhaps you have an older one that could keep someone else warm for the winter? Strong shoes and trainers would also be very welcome, as would packs of socks,

and warm hats and gloves.

Please place any donations in waterproof bags, and leave them at Ebenezer, Colugh Street, Llantwit Major; or take them directly to Oasis, if you have a lot of items.

Please don't leave summer clothes, as there is limited storage space. Likewise, I can't take stained or worn-out clothes.

Annie Paine,
Llantwit Major
(Tel 07804 624795).

'THANK YOU'

I'M writing to thank Tim Chapman for covering the MoD and Ska fundraiser for the Teenage Cancer Trust on Saturday, September 16 at the Tramshed, Cardiff.

We were very proud of the write-ups and coverage in The GEM.

Thanks once again.
Karl Webb, Barry (Promoter).

Making Music – Changing Lives.

It was developed in Ely, inspired by the world-famous Venezuelan music programme 'El Sistema'. Rev Gould, who is vicar of the Church of the Resurrection on Grand Avenue, Ely, gave an inspirational talk about her work which began in 2009, and the effect not only on the children participating, but their parents and the community, as well.

Rev Gould answered many questions at the end of her talk, and the audience, most impressed, donated a total of £70 towards her charity.

Rosemary Samuel, Chair,
Churches Together in Cowbridge and District.

The life you save might be YOURS!

SOME of your readers will know only too well that less than five per cent of people with pancreatic cancer in Wales will live for five years or more.

November 17 is World Pancreatic Cancer Day and across the globe, 985 people will die of the disease today – around 24 of them in the United Kingdom.

I would like to invite all your readers to know the symptoms and help us spread the word about the disease, because in Wales, as across the rest of the world, we simply don't know enough about it.

Yet, if more people were aware of the

potential symptoms – which include tummy pain that can spread to the back, significant and unexplained weight loss, yellow skin or eyes, or itchy skin, oily floating faeces and indigestion, more people in Wales could be diagnosed earlier.

And we know that the earlier people are diagnosed, the higher their chances of being able to have surgery, which could save their life.

Your readers can find out how to get involved in World Pancreatic Cancer Day at www.worldpancreaticcancerday.org/getinvolved/ Dianne Dobson, Pancreatic Cancer UK nurse specialist.

A cycle route without cyclists...



I AM writing, yet again, about the ridiculous way cycle routes in Barry are being constructed.

Most cyclists consider these routes to be obstacle courses; why is it so many still choose to ride on the main roads, instead of the provided cycle obstacle courses?

I took the attached photo on my way to work this morning, it is on a short stretch of pedestrian/cycle way on the new docks link to Barry Island.

Street furniture absolutely smack bang in the middle of the pavement, you can't even get a pushchair past this obstacle.

Our planners desperately need to visit some of our continental neighbours on a bike, so they can get a 'feel' for what a cycle route should look like – especially the Netherlands.

I have cycled many miles in Holland and find it an absolute pleasure. However, a trip through Barry is fraught with danger, having to constantly dismount and cross roads where the cyclists should have right of way.

On top of this, we have probably the worst cycle-aware drivers in Europe on our roads, so do need the protection of a decent cycle route.

Mr A Wright,
Barry.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A BRIGHTER FUTURE

NOW that Donald Trump is President-elect, we have our special relationship with the United States back.

So let's leave the EU! There are a few politicians trying to pull us back in and having secret meetings with EU leaders.

Let the Europeans fight their wars with Russia and elsewhere. As a country, we've done enough fighting and have lost enough soldiers, sailors and airmen.

Let's move forward to a country of peace and prosperity. I think young people in the UK can look forward to a brighter future.

Nigel Lloyd,
Barry.

HIGH TIDE TIMES (UNTIL NOVEMBER 24)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary.

For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time	Ht	Time	Ht
	AM	M	PM	M
17 Thur	07.59	10.5	20.28	10.4
18 Fri	08.47	10.1	21.12	9.9
19 Sat	09.33	9.6	22.01	9.3
20 Sun	10.25	9.0	22.54	8.6
21 Mon	11.22	8.4	23.55	8.2
22 Tues			12.28	8.1
23 Wed	01.09	7.9	13.45	8.0
24 Thur	02.24	8.1	14.53	8.3

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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People opened their hearts to Poppy Appeal



Cowbridge had some eye-catching window displays for 'Paint the Town Red'.

THE Poppy Appeal is over for another year and with counting under way, signs are hopeful for a large donation; but, what was most noticeable about this year's appeal was the way in which the town was galvanized into working for a common cause.

Poppies were prevalent throughout the town in many shapes and sizes. The large felt poppies produced by the Cutting Edge group were on display in around 60 retail premises and complemented the large poppies on the lamp posts.

The Cutting Edge World War One quilts on show in a number of shops also added to the poignancy of the occasion and once again caused considerable

interest. The 'Paint the Town Red' initiative was taken on board by a large number of retailers and many different themes from the large hearts in the window of Free to Explore Beauty, the poppy covered mannequin in Colours, and the simple but powerful personal story of an employee of Barclays Bank who enlisted in World War One, only to lose his life.

What emerged from the people of Cowbridge was a collective expression of support for the Poppy Appeal and created a truly wonderful atmosphere around the town.

It was also significant that other charities such as Ty Hafan, Tenovus and the Dogs Trust produced beautiful window displays in support of a fellow charity.

In addition, CADS (Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society) donated the full proceeds from their Friday night performance of J M Barrie's *Echoes of the War* to the Poppy Appeal.

The attitude of the public throughout the campaign was utterly brilliant. It was positive, generous and caring and the phrase 'good cause' was used repeatedly.

Young people via the schools showed a very generous nature; their collecting boxes standing out as being some of the heavier ones.

One of our RBL collectors was very impressed by the generosity of a young man of about 13 or 14 years of age who, on passing a collection point, stopped, took £10 from his wallet and placed it in the collection box without even taking a poppy. I would like to pass on a big 'thank you' to him, too.

This year, so many people have participated in so many ways it is difficult to know who to thank for fear of forgetting someone, so I would be grateful to The GEM for passing on a very sincere 'thank you' from the Poppy Appeal to all who have contributed in any way.

The whole event culminated in the short service at the war memorial on Friday, November 11, and the Remembrance parade and service on Sunday, both of which were very well organised.

The crowds attending both events were some of the largest for many years, yet another example of how the people of the Cowbridge area seem to have taken the Poppy Appeal to their hearts, and are prepared to show their support for the charity.

DAVID HOWELL
Cowbridge Poppy Appeal organiser



COMMUNITY NEWS
TREOES, LLANGAN & ST MARY HILL
Your local correspondent is Nancy Davidge, "Tynwydd", Llangan. (01656) 860303

Llangan school FOLLOWING the year-5 and 6 children's visit to Cardiff Castle, which they thoroughly enjoyed, they are taking part in a tag rugby tournament at Wick and Marcross Primary School on November 11. On November 15, the Lush company is coming to school to work years 5 and 6 to make presents for Christmas.

Trees service
THIS month's Saron Chapel service took place once again in the Treoes village hall, and was very well attended; officiating clergy, Rev Philip Denner.

Diary dates
ON Sunday, November 27, go along to the Treoes village hall between 10am-12.30pm and enjoy the Saron Chapel Christmas fayre. There will be lots of lovely gifts to buy and a warm welcome for everyone.

ON December 24, go along to Saron Chapel, which will be open for the festive season when everyone will receive a warm festive welcome.

Please note that on Sunday, December 11 at 3pm, a children's Christmas carol service will take place in Saron Chapel.

Work starts at Twt Park

THE Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council would like to inform the community of essential work that is planned to take place in Twt Park over the coming weeks.

On Monday, November 21, the Town Council is replacing the old multipurpose unit in the park with a new unit and is installing a glide.

This will mean that the play area surrounding the multipurpose unit will be fenced off.

The new wooden small child play area will still be open, as will the footpaths going through the park.

Prior to the work taking place in the multipurpose area, from Monday, November 14, gardeners will be in the park, trimming the trees and hedges.

The Town Council apologise for any inconvenience caused to the community by this

essential work taking place in the park, and will try to ensure that it is completed expeditiously.

The Town Council would also like to inform the community that as from Monday, November 14, signs will be displayed stopping ball games taking place in Twt park.

The reason for this decision is because of the risk of harm to other users in the park, particularly young children.

Furthermore, there is concern by the Town Council of damage being caused to park equipment, the trees and foliage and to neighbouring properties.

Persons who wish to play ball games are encouraged to use Poplars Park, the playing fields off Westgate, or the Bear Lane playing fields.

DAVID B MORRIS, Town Clerk
(on behalf of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council).

All abuzz at Llanblethian WI meeting!

THE Llanblethian church hall this month was abuzz with laughter and activity.

Along the right hand side of the hall, WI members had brought along unwanted items for the sales table. This was a veritable Aladdin's cave and there was a great deal of haggling and laughter. I think most of us have now completed our Christmas shopping!

But seriously, ladies, thank you all for your generosity – the money raised from the sales will make a very welcome boost to our WI funds.

Along the left hand side of the hall, the tables were laid out to pack shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. Once again, our members arrived laden with hats, scarves, books, pencils, sweets, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes and small toys. It was a child's delight.

A team of ladies set out to pack the boxes, which they did with great enthusiasm. Soon all the boxes were filled, with a great many items left over; these will be taken to the collection point to fill yet more boxes.

During a break, Hazel Coates gave an overview of the mammoth task that is undertaken by Samaritan's Purse, which is a much larger

operation than Operation Christmas Child, with a far greater field of activities; and better able to handle the distribution of these boxes to children who are living in poverty.

The boxes are distributed to children in schools, hospitals, and orphanages and their joy when they receive them is overwhelming. To understand their need, you need to go there, or at least see the video, which is both heartbreaking and joyous.

If you would like to get involved with this charity work, the warehouse where it is all happening is at Unit 7, Edwards Coaches (old Sogefi/ Fram Filtration site), Llantrisant Industrial Estate, CF72 8YU (opposite the Royal Mint).

Opening hours for sorting until December 3 are: Monday-Friday, 10am - 4pm; Tuesday-Thursday, 10am-9pm; Saturday, 10am-1pm.

Operation Christmas Child has notices at the entrance to the site, and follow the signs. Last year, approximately 27,000 boxes went from this area in Wales.

Let's see if we can make it 30,000 this year!
VG

Cowbridge and District Museum news update

FIRST of all, a big thank you to The GEM for helping us to be able to tell you about the goings on at the museum.

We have had quite a bit of feedback from people, and all to the good!

We have had people come forward offering us help, and this means that we are now able to open to the public twice a month, on the first and third Saturdays in the month.

I would also like to pass on our grateful thanks to the Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council for its support in allowing us to be able to do this.

A big part of our wanting to open twice monthly is to allow us to be open more than 20 times per year, and for us to be able to apply to become an accredited museum.

There is a lot of behind the scenes work going on at the moment – lots of form filling – to see if we are able to reach this standard to become a fully accredited museum.

We hope to know sometime in 2017.

We also still have one or two surprises up our sleeves, which we look forward to telling you about nearer the time. One of then hoping to be of help to those unable to physically visit the museum. I hope that will give you something to think about.

As for the Ewenny Pottery mug mystery, they were issued to the schoolchildren of Cowbridge, and I understand that the mugs my father and a colleague of his were asked to destroy were damaged ones.

I am given to believe that there were more mugs than entitled schoolchildren, so they were also destroyed. There are two of the mugs on display at the museum.

If you are interested in wanting to know more about the museum, or would like to help, please get in touch with us.

STEVE HARKETT,
Honorary Secretary,
Cowbridge and District Museum Trust



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A still, small voice of calm...

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

HUNDREDS gathered in Cowbridge on Remembrance Sunday to remember the British and Commonwealth Fallen of all conflicts since 1914 – including the ‘forgotten wars’ of Korea, Suez, the Malayan Emergency, Aden, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, the Gulf War and the wars in the Balkans – but also to remember those who are still alive with wounds visible or invisible.



RIGHT:
Young people in Cowbridge were keen to pay their respects to those who sacrificed their lives for our future.



FOOD AND DRINK - THE WELSH WAY!

THE St Nicholas Women's Institute speaker, Sian Roberts, was welcomed by vice-president Ann Bryant.

Sian, having worked in media for some years, has her own company taking visitors to south Wales, with the

opportunity to sample the delights of locally-produced food and drink. We were able to enjoy samples of a delicately-flavoured perry from Llantwit Fardre and several cheeses, including a well-flavoured one made with raw milk.

It was interesting to hear that the Marquess

of Bute was the first person to produce a commercial wine in Wales, and of the success of the Penderyn Whisky distillery.

A high quality sparkling wine is made in the Vale; and Wales exports most of the fish caught around its coast, even exporting dried seaweed to Japan.

Refreshments were followed by the business meeting and it was good to receive excellent feedback about the October meeting's fashion show given by Samantha B of Ewenny, when six of our members took to the catwalk to show off a wide range of casual and cocktail wear.

Bookings were taken for our Christmas dinner at The Market Place restaurant. The suggested list of resolutions for the WI annual meeting was noted and would be discussed at the next meeting, and the county newsletter was read and items noted.

Our monthly meeting will be on January 5 in St Nicholas church hall at 7.15pm and new members will be welcome.

WL

Concert raises £3,300 for church appeal

ON November 4, a fundraising concert and auction was held in aid of Marcross Church at St Donat's Arts Centre.

We had a full house and managed to raise £3,300 for urgently needed church repairs.

Matthew Brook, bass baritone, and Anna Markland, piano, performed a wide variety of items to the delight of the audience who were in a warm and generous spirit.

We thank all for their support for this very important cause, and thank Hopkin Joseph for his entertaining

auctioning skills.

There were many kind donations on top of ticket sales, including a large amount from Sir Gerald and Lady Elliot of Edinburgh, who regularly support charity and arts events. Thanks must go to Atlantic College, St Donats Castle, for their generous offer for the use of the Tythe Barn.

Thanks also to the fundraising team and committee, who have put in many hours of work to make these events go so smoothly.

There will be further fundraising events throughout the year.

MATTHEW BROOK

Cowbridge Male Voice Choir gears up for Christmas tree festival



Elinor Parsons

COWBRIDGE Male Voice Choir will make its only concert appearance in Cowbridge during 2016 at Holy Cross Church on November 25 at 7.30pm, in a concert which marks the start of the church's Christmas tree festival.

The choir, unfortunately, had to cancel its annual concert earlier in the year, owing to its musical director Shelley Thomas Brown being indisposed because of major surgery.

The choir is delighted that Shelley, who is continuing to make a good recovery, will be conducting the choir at this concert.

The concert has a unique atmosphere as there will be a dazzling display of Christmas trees which light up the church.

Appearing again this year will be Elinor Parsons, who delighted the audience with her performance at last year's concert.

The choir looks forward, not only to her solo spot, but also to hearing her duet with Tom Hamilton.

Both Elinor and Tom are pupils at Cowbridge Comprehensive School.

Tickets for the concert are available from Sorrento Furnishers and David Barnes Dry Cleaners Cowbridge, or from any choir member. They cost £7.50.

FM

Tractor Boys' £1,500 cheque for baby care unit

THE Tractor Boys of Aberthyn held a presentation evening at the Farmers Arms, Aberthyn, on Monday, October 24.

The main event of the evening was the presentation by Bob Biddle, president of the Tractor Boys, of a cheque for £1,500 to the special baby care unit at Singleton Hospital, Swansea.

Kelly-Anne Gibson, a nurse at the baby care unit, accepted the cheque on behalf of the hospital, and expressed her delight at the amount raised.

The money was raised at the request of Caroline Langford, who wanted to thank the nursing staff at the hospital for their efforts and the excellent care given to her twin granddaughters, who were born three months premature.

As a result of their dedication, the babies have just celebrated their

first birthday.

The bulk of the money presented was raised as the result of a tractor run held around the Gower coastline back in the summer. Around 22 tractors attended the event on a nice sunny Sunday morning.

All those who attended agreed that the run was excellent, was very well organised, and was a fantastic way to view the beautiful Gower scenery.

Many thanks go to Martyn and Jim, who organised the run, and also to Bruce Pritchard, who made a very generous contribution to the funds raised.

Kelly-Anne told the attendees at the presentation evening that the money raised would go towards the purchase of specialist nursing chairs and was something that was desperately needed within the unit.

SRD

Llantwit surgery

LLANTWIT First Independent councillors will hold a surgery at the Heritage Centre, Town Hall, Llantwit Major this Saturday, November 19, from 9.30am - 11.30am.

Residents with any issues to raise are welcome to attend.

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YOUNG (AND THE NOT SO YOUNG) TURN OUT TO REMEMBER IN COWBRIDGE

These pictures by MIKE WILCOCK were taken when the people of Cowbridge turned out on Remembrance Day at the weekend to honour the fallen.



Reindeer? Looks more like snow...

MEMBERS of Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions Club and friends, including members of Cowbridge Rotary Club, will again be out in

force for the Cowbridge Reindeer Parade on Sunday, November 27 to both steward the parade and collect money for good causes.

All the money donated by the crowds of people who line the route will as usual go to support those in need – such as, for example, providing Christmas presents for disadvantaged children.

Following the Reindeer Parade, Santa will be in his grotto to meet the children. This is usually hugely popular so, to avoid long queues, access will be by ticket only.

The tickets for Santa's Grotto can be collected at the west entrance to the Town Hall on a first-come, first-served basis from 11am on the day.

Each ticket will grant access to one family, but please remember the number of tickets is strictly limited since Santa can only stay for a short time.

Santa will be in his grotto between 1.30pm and 4pm and tickets will be allocated for slots between these times.

There will be no charge for the tickets but if you enjoy the experience, a donation in support of the work of Lions would be much appreciated, using Gift Aid, if possible.

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Pupils are excluded after violent footage is posted online

PUPILS were excluded from a Barry school after violent footage was posted online showing a schoolgirl being attacked.

The GEM understands the incident took place at the Buttrills Playing Fields in Barry on Wednesday, November 2.

An investigation was launched by staff at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg who are also co-operating with the Vale Council and the school's governing body.

The head teacher Hywel Price issued a statement to parents, guardians and pupils in which he explained staff had been collecting evidence on what had happened.

He said: "Following the appearance of mobile phone footage on various social media websites which clearly shows two pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg assaulting another pupil from the school, I wish to make a very clear and

by GEM REPORTER

concise statement to the whole school community.

"The school is fully aware of the incident and footage, and several members of staff have spent countless hours collating evidence from various sources, and collecting written statements from several pupils and meeting parents.

"Two pupils have received fixed term exclusions while the school conducts its investigation in co-operation with the Vale Council and the governing body.

"A final decision will be taken on the matter on the conclusion of the investigation in due course. Please be assured that we are investigating the incident thoroughly."

Acting Chief Inspector, Robert Miles, said the incident was being treated "very seriously".

"We are aware of the video, showing an assault on a school pupil in Buttrills Playing Fields in Barry, which has been circulating on social media.

"I want to assure the public that the matter is being taken very seriously and that we are continuing to work closely with the school and the families of those concerned. Inquiries are ongoing."

Coun Lis Burnett, Vale cabinet member for education, said any disciplinary action would be a matter for the school.

"The Vale Council is supporting the school and its governing body while an investigation of the incident is being undertaken.

"Any further disciplinary action will be a matter for the headteacher and governing body. A counselling service is available to support any pupils impacted by the incident."

Speaker's talk far from DRAB!

THE November meeting of Southerndown WI was very well attended and we were delighted to welcome back members who had been unable to attend meetings for several months.

President Michele welcomed them formally and also welcomed two potential new members, Linda and Chris, who have moved to the area recently. Michele went on to update us on forthcoming activities including a trip to the Royal Mint, our Christmas meal, and the Christmas carol service being held on December 5 in Coychurch with our Link WIs.

We were updated on the regular activities that

take place - darts, the reading group, the walking group - and plans to introduce an informal craft group starting in January. More information will be given during the December meeting.

Our speaker for the evening was, unfortunately, not available at short notice, so Judith stepped into the breach, giving us a fascinating talk on an introduction to First Aid.

As a qualified First Aid trainer for St John's Ambulance, she gave us some food for thought - along with several acronyms to remember, such as DRAB. Her presentation was anything but drab and I'm sure we can all remember what it stands for!

The coffee morning for this month will take place in Lyn's house in St Brides Major on Thursday, November 24 from 10.30am. Our Christmas meal will take place on December 1 and our next meeting is on December 8 at 7.15am in the Church Hall, Southerndown Road, St Brides Major.

We hope Linda and Chris will be there again, so why don't you come along as well?

PM

PENLLYN AND DISTRICT WI NEWS

CHRISTMAS is definitely on the agenda for the ladies of Penllyn and District WI.

At their meeting this month their speaker, Liz Sorenson, showed them how to make seasonal floral arrangements to grace their homes in the next few weeks. The ladies were impressed by the simplicity of the designs - even the most florally challenged could make an attempt to make table decorations!

The evening continued in true WI form with a delicious buffet provided by the members and time

for catching up with friends.

Christmas has also been very much to the fore of the craft groups' activities in the last months with many items made in preparation for the annual fair. This year, Penllyn WI is holding this event on December 10 in the Lesser Town Hall in Cowbridge. The doors will open at 10am and there will be plenty of time to browse the stalls and purchase Christmas gifts before enjoying the refreshments on sale. We hope to see you there!

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Pan-Fried Chicken with Lemon and Rosemary
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Cannelloni stuffed with Tomatoes & Roasted Vegetables in a Bechamel Sauce
Roasted Salmon with Tomatoes and Pesto

Mrs Villa's Christmas Pudding & Brandy Butter
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Dinner Menu for Christmas Parties
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Provençal Tomato and Onion Tart
Calamari with Homemade Tartare Sauce
Roasted Duck with Apricot & Almond Stuffing/Roast Veg
A vegetarian Trio of Baked Stuffed Peppers, Spinach and Cream Pancake with Roasted Stuffed Mushrooms
Roasted Hake with a Beurre Blanc
Chicken Breast with Parma Ham, Mozzarella & Pesto
Battered Cod and Chips
Beef braised in Barolo with Mushrooms and Onions

Mrs Villa's Christmas Pudding & Brandy Butter
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THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

CHRISTMAS ILLUMINATIONS
LLANTWIT ROAD, ST ATHAN

SUNDAY 27th NOVEMBER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic including pedal cycles with the exception of Emergency Services vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Sunday 27th November 2016	Llantwit Road St Athan between Rectory Road and its junction with Llantwit Gardens/ Warlow Close	12.00noon to 7.00pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place.

Dated this 17th of November 2016

M. E. Punter, Director of Environment & Housing
 Vale of Glamorgan Council,
 The Alps, Wenvoe, CF5 6AA



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG
GORCHYMYN CAU FFORDD DROS DRO, ADUAN 16A
DEDDF RHEOLEIDDIO TRAFFIG FFYRDD 1984

GOLEUADAU'R NADOLIG
LLANTWIT ROAD, SAIN TATHAN

DYDD SUL 27 TACHWEDD 2016

RHODDIR HYSBYSIAD DRWY HYN fod Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi gwneud y gorchymyn canlynol dan Adran 16A Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrrd 1984:-

DRWY HYN, yn ystod oriau penodol o'r diwrnod ac ar y dyddiad a nodir yng nghlofn 1 yr Atodlen caiff y strydoedd neu'r rhannau o'r strydoedd a nodir yng nghlofn 2 yr Atodlen honno eu defnyddio i gynnal digwyddiad perthnasol fel y disgrifir yn Adran 16(A) (1) Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrrd 1984, mae'r Cyngor, yn unol â'r pwerau a ddylemni iddo dan Adran 16A Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrrd 1984, yn **GORCHYMYN AC YN CYFARWYDDO**, er mwyn hwylyso'r gwaith o gynnal y digwyddiad, galluogi aelodau'r cyhoedd i wylïo'r digwyddiad hwnnw a lleihau unrhyw effaith ar draffig a achosir gan y digwyddiad, cydymffurfiaeth â'r rheoliad canlynol:-

Y CYFYNGIR, ac eithrio'r hyn y darperir ar ei gyfer yn y gorchymyn, y defnydd o'r strydoedd neu'r rhannau o'r strydoedd a nodir i draffig cerbydau, gan gynnwys beiciau pedal, ac eithrio i gerbydau'r Gwasanaethau Brys, rhwng yr oriau a nodir yng nghlofn 3 o'r atodlen a nodir. Y gosb am dorri'r rheoliad yw dirwy hyd at £1000.00.

Atodlen

Colofn 1	Colofn 2	Colofn 3
Sunday 27th November 2016	Llantwit Road Sain Tathan rhwng Rectory Road a'r gyffordd â Gerddi Llanilltyd / Warlow Close.	12.00noon tan 7.00pm

Bydd Arwyddion Gwriad yn cael eu gosod

Dyddiedig 17 Tachwedd 2016

M. E. Punter
 Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd a Thai
 Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, Yr Alpau Gwenfô CF5 6AA



GILL TACKLES CARDIFF HALF MARATHON IN MEMORY OF A FRIEND



Gill Evans (right) ran for her friend, Jill, and for Marie Curie's work in hospices.

AS Gill Evans puts it: "When I was training for the half marathon, I could hear her little laugh in my ear. It spurred me on."

That's how Gill Evans tackled the Cardiff Half Marathon last month – something she had been aiming to take on for a number of years.

And after seeing the care her friend of 30 years received from Marie Curie Nurses at the Cardiff and Vale Hospice, Penarth, before she died, she knew what cause she wanted to raise money for.

Marie Curie hospices provide round-the-clock expert care and support for those living with terminal illness and their families.

"Jill was born with cerebral palsy and battled against the odds all her life, but she enjoyed life to the full," said Gill, from Penarth.

"She was just amazing really, anything that people said to her you can't do, she would say 'that's me, I've got to have a go at that'."

Jill became ill and started to receive care from Marie Curie nurses at home earlier this year,

before she went into the Penarth hospice, where she died.

Gill said she had always wanted to do the Cardiff Half Marathon, and kept promising to do so before her 60th birthday.

"A mate of mine used to keep texting me saying 'not long now', so I said I would do it this year."

"It turned out I could then help Marie Curie."

She described her fundraising total as "incredible" and said she felt a real buzz on the day.

"It was amazing, I really enjoyed it and it was for such a good cause as well, because it's local and you never know when you may need the help yourself."

When Penarth Leisure Centre instructor Ed Halls heard the cause Gill was running for, he decided to also raise money for Marie Curie.

"I'd already signed up for the half marathon when I found out who Gill was running for, and decided I would help raise money for Marie Curie too, because it's a great cause with all the help people get."

Together, the pair raised more than £1,355.

A stroll on the Wales Coastal Path

ON Sunday, November 13, 26 Vale of Glamorgan Ramblers walked from Caldicot Castle, taking the Wales coastal path to St Pierre, then returning on an inland route – 11 miles in total.

We also had a shorter walk of about seven miles in the same area. We had beautiful weather for our Remembrance Sunday walk and enjoyed magnificent views over the Severn Estuary, with both bridges looking striking in the November sunshine.

We observed a minute's silence on the coastal path, led by John Moore, reflecting on all who gave their lives for our future.

Thank you to everyone who turned out for a lovely walk with great company.

JB

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Vale Council hands over £1,000 cheque to the Rotary Club



PICTURED – back row: Billy Hunter, council highways team; Middle row, left to right: Jon Launchbury, council highways engineer; Emma Reed, head of visible services; Sarah Jones and Nia Hollins, the council's Barry Island resort management team; Phil Hunt, Rotary Club. Front row, left to right: Peter Battle, Rotary Club, Coun Gwyn John; Robin Pitcher, Rotary Club president; Julian Delaney, Rotary Club.

THE Vale Council has handed over a cheque for £1,000 to Barry Rotary Club, from car park revenue generated on the night of Barry Island's Fireworks Fiesta.

Coun Gwyn John presented the cheque to Rotary Club president Robin Pitcher. It is hoped that the Rotary Club raised more than £5,000 for charity at the event.

Coun John, cabinet member for visible, leisure and regulatory services, said: "The Vale Council is delighted to make this donation to the Rotary Club, taken from car parking revenue generated on the night of last weekend's Fireworks Fiesta on Barry Island."

"This sum is in addition to the

£4,500 worth of funding the council provided for the event, made up of a £1,500 grant plus £3,000 worth of resources to organise road closures, provide stewarding and arrange traffic management.

"The Rotary Club does so much fantastic work in the local community, and we hope that this donation can help that continue."

Rotary Club president Robin Pitcher said: "The weather was really with us on the night and contributed to what was a splendid evening, thanks in part to the support we receive from the Vale of Glamorgan and Town Councils."

"We have yet to establish exactly how much money was generated from the Fireworks Fiesta, but we hope it will be a similar sum to previous years, which we will use on charitable spending."

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Echoes of the War... A Week of Remembrance across the Vale

THE crowds of people who joined the Remembrance ceremonies and services across the Vale were larger than ever this year as we commemorated the centenary of the Battle of the Somme.

A total of 120 pupils from Barry schools took part in a ceremony at 11am on November 11 at the Barry Cemetery, laying their wooden crosses alongside wreaths, as we laid our wreaths at the Merchant Seamen Memorial, led by Coun Stuart Egan, the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan.

Either processing with us in Barry from King's Square to the Merchant Seamen Memorial at the Civic Offices and then to the

Cenotaph at the Memorial Hall, or joining events in towns and villages across the Vale, the people who joined in were clearly moved by the shared moments of silence as we joined the Royal British Legion call – 'We Will Remember Them.'

In a packed Memorial Hall, Father Ben Andrews led the service and we took part in an Act of Commitment: 'Will you strive for all that makes for peace?'

Will you seek to heal the wounds of war?

Will you work for a just future for all humanity?'

Our response to each statement was – 'We will.'

On Saturday night, I attended the 70th anniversary production of the Cowbridge Amateur Dramatic Society 'Echoes of the War', by JM Barrie, at

the Market Theatre in Cowbridge.

This was a very moving production made up of two of four short stories by JM Barrie, first published in 1918, reflecting on the effect The Great War had on the families at home.

'The Old Lady Shows her Medals' and 'A Well Remembered Voice', were beautifully acted by members of CADS, directed by Peg Foster and Caron Reidy.

I thanked them all for staging this as part of the commemorations this year.

The performance on Friday raised funds for the Royal British Legion - of which I am a member - that organises the Great Poppy Appeal year after year, with their volunteers working flat out during the Remembrance period.

Thank you also to Roy and Teresa

Goodwin for supplying my wreaths and poppies.

In his statement to the Assembly last week, we had the opportunity to hear from cabinet secretary, Carl Sargeant AM, on his work to coordinate policy action across the Welsh Government to support veterans.

Rebecca Evans AM, minister for social services and public health, also announced on October 18 that from April 2017, a full

disregard of the War Disablement Pensions (WDP) would be introduced in all local authority financial assessments for charging for social care.

I have also been engaging with the volunteers who are refurbishing, through voluntary effort, Woody's Lodge at HMS Cambria, with a visit planned to see their work to provide a place where veterans from all the Services can meet and support each other.

Open from 9am to 3pm, on Mondays to Thursdays, this new centre will be featured at an event I am hosting at the Assembly in January, which Carl Sargeant is attending.

Woody's Lodge has developed out of the veterans' social group Group 617 and is also supported by the Armed Services Covenant, which the Vale Council convenes with Coun Anthony Powell as the champion for veterans.

This week also saw the poignant event 'Light up for Lesley' when family, friends and supporters of Barry ovarian cancer campaigner, Lesley Woolcock, staged a candlelight awareness event, on what would have been her 48th birthday on Tuesday (November 15), at the Merthyr Dyfan Chapel at Barry Cemetery.

Thank you, Lesley, for your courage and bravery.

ASSEMBLY NOTES



by VALE AM JANE HUTT
(Leader of the House)

Penarth project 'to care for the carers'

CARERS who helped design and develop a resource for people with caring responsibilities were celebrated when Rebecca Evans, minister for social services and public health, launched the Marie Curie Taking Care/Cymryd Gofal project at Penarth Pier Pavilion.

"I commend both the Marie Curie charity and the carers of loved ones living with a terminal illness in developing Taking Care/Cymryd Gofal," she said.

"By developing a resource which recognises the practical, physical, and emotional demands of the caring role, they have provided a tool which can empower family and friends to deal with these demands – while continuing to support loved ones when they need it most."

Taking Care/Cymryd

Gofal is part of a three-year Caring for Carers project taking place at Marie Curie, funded by Big Lottery Fund.

Taking Care/Cymryd Gofal – available in both Welsh and English – provides carers with information and support that will help them to manage the practical, physical and emotional demands of their role.

Following the launch, the project team will be working with carers and a range of groups supporting carers together with Marie Curie Nursing Service and hospices to evaluate its use and benefits, looking at how individual sites use the resource for different circumstances and how it directly benefits carers.

Initially, this will include up to 30 different individuals, groups and organisations – including the Marie Curie Cardiff and Vale hospice, Bridgend Carers' Centre and a community hub in Newport,

Pembrokeshire – with the outcomes to inform the final distribution of the resource at the end of the Marie Curie Caring for Carers' project in spring 2017.

The intention is to distribute 300 free copies of the resource across Wales at the end of the project.

CRAFT FAIR DOES WELL

THE Craft Fair at Trinity Methodist Church, Penarth, on November 12, was once again a huge success.

With over 20 stalls displaying a wide selection of locally made crafts, the ever popular baked goods stall, and many other items, the amazing sum of £600 was raised.

This time, the charities to benefit were chosen by Gill and Ceri Street – Crohn's and Colitis UK and Epilepsy Action.

As always, our grateful thanks go to all the hard workers on the day, the donors of goods and raffle prizes, crafters who shared demonstrations of their work and of course everyone who came and supported the event. Thank you again Ceri-Lou and Ro Newman.

Ceri-Lou Newman
Penarth



To be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 30th November

The school is proud to hold its **Annual Open Evening** for those students who wish to enter the sixth form in September 2017.

Any student or parent interested can obtain more details and the "welcome pack" by emailing: year12openevening@porthcawlschool.co.uk Alternatively you may telephone 01656 774100.

Porthcawl is a traditional school with a proven track record of excellence for all in Years 12 and 13. AS and A2 results consistently compare very favourably with local and national figures.

A Level Results 2016

- 99% of pupils achieved grades A*- E
- 30% were at grades A*/A
- 82% were at grades A*- C
- An incredible 360 A Level papers were sat and 23% of pupils secured a place at a Russell Group University

Again many pupils joined Porthcawl for the sixth form from other schools. Please find further information at www.porthcawlschool.co.uk

Our Estyn inspection report was very positive and we were proud to read that:

"One of the school's strengths is the exceptional working relationship between teachers and pupils. The school has a strong ethos based on fairness and this creates a caring and disciplined environment."

"The school works highly effectively with a range of partners and this work has a significant impact on pupils' wellbeing and achievement. Collaboration with other providers ensures that sixth form students can choose from a comprehensive range of academic and vocational courses."

"In the sixth form, students perform above the family and Wales averages for both the level 3 threshold and wider capped points score. ... Both boys and girls achieve well at the level 3 threshold and in 2012 there was virtually no gap between their relative performance."

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VALE PEOPLE FIRST GET HEALTH AWARD



VALE People First 'Real Lives' members were commissioned by Public Health Wales to produce the cover of its annual quality statement.

They had to show what makes their community a happy one, what's important to them.

Here they are (above) with the certificates awarded to them by

Public Health Wales at their 2016 AGM held in Merthyr Tydfil.

Ian Swannick and Kelly Anne Rideout had the chance to talk to the audience and tell people what Vale People First stands for, having a voice, being valued members of their community, rights for people with a learning disability. They "look forward" to working with Public Health Wales again.

Age shall not weary them...



ABOVE: Veteran Joe Norton and young Beaver, Cole Thomas, out selling poppies. RIGHT: Stan Smith.



JOE NORTON, who was 90 in May, was this year's Barry branch oldest Poppy seller and a World War Two Merchant Navy veteran.

Cole is just six years old and is 2/4 Barry Scouts' youngest Beaver. He collected for the Poppy Appeal for the very first time.

They are pictured Poppy selling together in Morrison's.

Stan Smith was 90 in July is shown collecting (second picture) for the Poppy Appeal with Cole Thomas aged six, who is a Beaver from 11th Barry Sea Scouts, and Stan was recently found to be Barry's oldest known Scout, and has been invested in 11th Barry.

He has been collecting for the Poppy Appeal for 25 years.

Teresa Goodwin Barry RBL

Dinas Powys production

DINAS POWYS Players present Season's Greetings at The Parish Hall, Dinas Powys today (Thursday, November 17) and Friday, November 18 at 7.30pm.

For tickets (£7, £6.50 concessions), call 20512868 or 21406168 or contact the Village Stores, McColls, Castle Drive.

Call for 'service pupil premium' to match English offer to Forces

CONSERVATIVES have called on the Welsh Labour Government to bring forward additional support for the children of Armed Forces' parents in Wales.

In England, they said, all children of serving members of the Armed Forces qualify for the service pupil premium, but not in Wales.

The Welsh Government had refuted the need for additional measures, claiming that Forces' children would qualify for support through mainstream funding streams – where eligible.

The issue arose during a session of the Assembly's children, young people and education committee when leader of the Welsh Conservatives, Andrew RT Davies, deputised for his party's education spokesman, Darren Millar.

Mr Davies argued that additional, targeted support was needed to support

Armed Forces children.

He said: "The health and education of Armed Forces' children can be profoundly affected by the disruption which occurs when parents serve in the county."

"Having a parent who is regularly away, can be extremely difficult for young people, on top of the impact of regularly changing schools and moving home. There are also the most serious challenges that can arise in the event of bereavement or injury."

"That's why we need to ensure that all devolved levers are utilised to offer the necessary support."

"It's clear that we have a long way to go to redress the disadvantages faced by this section of the community, and the introduction of a scheme similar to the service pupil premium would be a step in the right direction for Welsh service families."

Assembly considering smoking ban outside schools and hospitals

A Welsh Assembly committee is looking at a proposed law which could see smoking banned in schools, hospital grounds, and playgrounds.

It could also see the introduction of a licensing system for acupuncture, body piercing and tattoo businesses.

The Public Health (Wales) Bill could, among other things:

- Provide an enhanced role for pharmacies in communities;
- Compel local councils to have a strategy for public toilets in their areas based on local need;
- Create a national register of tobacco and nicotine product retailers;
- Ban intimate

piercing of persons under the age of 16-years-old.

At stage one of the Assembly's law-making process, the health, social care and sport committee will consider whether the Bill is necessary, whether its objectives can be achieved through already existing legislation, and whether it will achieve intended objectives.

It has opened a consultation and is calling for people to "have their say".

The committee's predecessor in the Fourth Assembly considered a similar Bill which was not passed. However, the main controversial element of that Bill, a proposed ban on the use of e-cigarettes or vaping in public places, has been removed.

"This Bill is very similar to one which was considered during the previous Assembly," said

Dai Lloyd AM, Chair of the health, social care and sport committee.

"However, that is not to say they are identical and that the work has already been done."

"It is a broad-range Bill, affecting many aspects of life from smoking, to pharmacy services, public conveniences, acupuncture, piercings and tattoos."

"We would like people to consider this Bill anew and tell us whether they think it is necessary and whether it will do what it says it will."

Submissions of evidence should arrive by December 16.

Anyone wishing to submit evidence, should send an electronic copy of the submission to: seneddhealth@assembly.wales.

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Network Rail tells of temporary closure of level crossings

VALE residents have been invited to drop-in events – to learn more about temporary level crossing closures planned over the festive season – as work to deliver Network Rail's Railway Upgrade Plan continues.

The final phase of the £300m Cardiff area signalling renewal scheme – the biggest remodelling and resignalling project in Wales ever – will be fully commissioned over this Christmas and New Year.

The 'congestion-busting' scheme will help deliver a more reliable railway across the Cardiff and Valleys network as Network Rail prepares the railway for the arrival of a new fleet of 'bigger, faster and greener' electric trains.

Some of the existing signal boxes will be closed and all signalling transferred to the Wales route operations centre in Cardiff.

To fully commission the scheme, some sections of the railway need to be closed for a short period to test all of the new equipment.

Temporary planned closures of five level crossings west of Cardiff

will all begin at 10pm on December 24. Level crossings closed are St Fagans 8am on December 27; St Georges, 5am on January 4; Pontsarn, 8am on December 29; Llantrisant West, 8am on December 29; Rhose, 8am on December 26.

Residents were invited to attend a drop-in event at St Fagans Village Hall on November 15 and again at Peterston-super-Ely Church and Community Hall today (Thursday, November 17) from 3pm until 6pm.

Network Rail will be on hand to provide information on this upgrade work and to answer any questions – no appointment is necessary.

During this essential final phase of the project there will be no train services late on Christmas Eve between Cardiff Central, Bridgend, Newport and the Valleys.

There will be bus replacements and service alterations in place between Cardiff Central, Bridgend, Newport and the Valleys from December 27 until January 3.

Christian Irwin, programme manager for Network Rail Wales, said: "This is the final phase of the highly

complex project to re-signal the railway in the Cardiff area as part of our Railway Upgrade Plan, which will modernise the signalling system in South Wales allowing more services to run along the railway, resulting in an increase in passenger capacity, particularly at peak times.

"As part of this project we have replaced ageing signalling equipment, enhanced track layouts, built new platforms and improved stations.

"We would like to thank the general public and rail passengers for their patience and understanding while we complete this essential final phase of this major upgrade project."

If you have any questions or concerns, telephone our 24-hour National Helpline on 03457 11 41 41 or email crwales@networkrail.co.uk.

A PARTY of 10 walkers joined John R from Penarth and District Ramblers for a trip down west to Craig y Nos Country Park, where the castle was once owned by the famous opera diva Adelina Patti, a showbiz businesswoman, actress and singer who moved in high circles of Victorian society.

Craig y Nos, meaning Rock of the Night, captivated her and she spent the rest of her life there entertaining international figures including Edward VII.

In 1921, the castle and grounds became a hospital and served wounded patients during World War Two before its closure in 1986, and it is now run as a hotel.

On a glorious sunny morning, the group set out walking past the National Showcaves Centre at Dan yr Ogof to join a bridleway climbing north west through an area dotted with shakeholes, formed

when surface water washes the top layer of boulder clay into cracks in the limestone rock underneath causing deep depressions in the landscape.

Taking advantage of one of the depressions in order to shelter from the blustery north wind, a break for morning coffee and Mike's delicious home baked cake followed.

Continuing uphill for several miles while crossing several fords, where fortunately, the water was fairly low, and climbing the flank of the escarpment to join part of the long distance Beacon's Way, they enjoyed a stop for lunch while soaking up the last of the sunshine.

Then, reaching the ridgeway at Bannau Sir Gaer and tramping to Picwys Du, which at 749m is the second highest peak in the Carmarthen Fans on the Black

Mountain in the western end of the Brecon Beacons National Park, a strong cold northerly wind hit them face on as skies darkened. In varied light caused by showers in some places and sunshine in others, the

long distance views took on a dramatic effect towards Carreg Cennen Castle to the west and Swansea Bay in the south.

Taking the shortest route to the summit of Fan Brycheiniog at 802m the highest point, and after being battered about by strong winds, the plan to walk along the

ridgeway of Fan Hir soon faded and instead the group dropped steeply down to Llyn y Fan Fawr. Stopping for a

refreshment break and a second round of cake from John, the Beacons Way led them back down the valley and during their long descent the winds eased and the sky began to clear by the time they reached their cars.

On November 19, meet at 8.30am at Cogan Leisure Centre at 8am for an 11-mile hard walk from Mountain Ash, taking in Aberfan to remember the 50th anniversary of the Aberfan disaster and

back via Mynydd Merthyr; contact Rachel on 01446 410545.

Wear suitable clothing, preferably boots and carry waterproofs, food and drinks. Some degree of fitness is required and if you are in any doubt, then please contact the walk leader for advice. Programmes and membership advice can be obtained from Pam on 029 2025 5102.

JOY STRANGWARD

CYLCH MEITHRIN FAIR

Cylch Meithrin, Llanilltud Fawr will hold their winter fair on Saturday, November 19 from 11am – 1pm at Llantwit Major Rugby Club.

Stalls will be selling homemade confectionery and chutneys, skincare, Christmas and children's crafts, and ceramics. There will also be a photographer, to take those family Christmas shots. This is an opportunity to make a start on your Christmas shopping or just treat yourself!



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Citizens Advice makes elderly Pension Wise

CITIZENS Advice, Cardiff and Vale, has welcomed new independent figures which show the success of Pension Wise, that the local charity delivers across the area.

"An Ipsos Mori survey of nearly 2,000 Pension Wise customers across the UK revealed that 85% of people said that the guidance they received means they now have a better understanding of their pension options," a spokesman said.

Nearly nine in 10 (89 per cent) of those who have an appointment go on to take further action on their pension saving.

Following the pension reforms in April 2015, people approaching retirement have greater freedom over how they can use their pension pots. With a number of options available, people are now able to take a lump sum, take out an annuity or a mixture of both.

Big Volunteering Fayre

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) will be hosting The BIG Volunteering Fayre on Wednesday, January 18 from 11 am - 4pm at Barry Memorial Hall.

The BIG Volunteering Fayre is an ideal opportunity to showcase your charity and community group to promote volunteering opportunities, to recruit more volunteers and for organisations needing extra support.

If you represent an organisation and would like to attend the volunteering fayre and book a stall, telephone 01446 741706, email: enquiries@gvs.wales, or visit www.gvs.wales.

ON Wednesday, November 9, Class 4 at St Nicholas C/W Primary School had the honour of representing the children of Wales at the national service to open the Cardiff Field of Remembrance.

The Royal British Legion had arranged a special plot for the school to plant crosses with their own personal messages and then participate in the service of Remembrance.

Violet Shelbourne (year-5 councillor) added: "I wrote a special message on my cross to my granddad who was a prisoner of war."

Lucy Bevan (year-6 councillor) summed up the importance of the day by stating: "We have Remembrance Day to remember all the soldiers who died in World War One, World War Two and any wars since, we will never forget them and their memory will live on for a long time."

The children listened respectfully throughout the service. They were visibly moved by the

reading of the poem *Mametz Wood* by First Minister Carwyn Jones, the blessing from Canon Stuart Lisk and singing *Hen Wlad Fy Nhadau* and *The National Anthem* from the Military Wives Choir and British Imperial Military Band.

Taya Griffith, a year-5 councillor said: "I loved listening to the Military Wives Choir; they sounded so graceful and really made me think of all the soldiers who have fought in past wars and their courage to give us our freedom."

Some children and our teacher were interviewed by Wales online and by reporter Nick Pallit from BBC Wales. This gave them the opportunity to thank all the brave soldiers and reflect on their own personal experiences. On Friday, November 11, Class 4 shared the importance of remembrance with the rest of the school, explaining the importance of the British Legion and the poppy.

The whole school then gathered around the village memorial for a reading from the poem *For the Fallen*, the

playing of *Last Post*, and the Silence, which was impeccably observed.

The children of St Nicholas will always remember the brave soldiers that fight for our freedom.

Report written by school councillors Lucy Bevan, Sofia Pritchard, Taya Griffith and Violet Shelbourne and Jason Downey.

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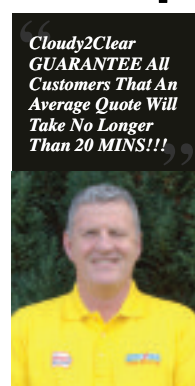
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Consumer champions Which? have now joined the thousands of customers who recognise that Cloudy2Clear Windows really are a business that you can TRUST. The company which specialises in repairing windows which are steamed up, broken or damaged by replacing the panes - not the frames has received the coveted 'Which Trusted Trader' status after going through a rigorous accreditation process entirely focussed on customer service.

Group Managing Director Marcus McGee believes that Which? have endorsed Cloudy2Clear's long standing company

policy of delivering the highest standards possible at all times. "Our service is simple. If your double glazing has misted up we can replace the glass at a fraction of the cost of a new window, in any type of frame, and with a new 25 year guarantee. But it's not just about saving people money, although that obviously helps. Whilst a number of tradespeople perhaps don't focus on customer care as much as they should do, we make sure we turn up when we say we will, do the job the customer requires and leave their house as clean as a whistle. Locally Cloudy2Clear service Cardiff & surrounding areas and

Welsh business owner Phil Powell agrees that this approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated as both my customers and, obviously a body as nationally important as Which? now recognise. So, if your windows are steamed up, broken or damaged give Phil a call for a free quotation on 0800 61 21 118 and he'll be happy to help!"



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Valeways walks

ON Wednesday, November 23 at 10am, 'Afon Elai a Bae Cerydd/ Ely river and Cardiff Bay', starting at Gorsaf Reilffordd, Cogan CF64 2NS.

At 10.30am on November 23, the Cosmeston Coffee Shop Strollers meet outside the visitor centre, Cosmeston Country Park.

Also on Wednesday, November 23 at 2.30pm, the Llantwit Major Coffee Shop strollers meet at Llantwit Major Town Hall car park.

On Sunday, November 27 at 2pm, Santa ai' geirw/ Santa's in town at Eglwys St John Baptist, Llanblethian.

Flu spray for tots

CHILDREN aged between two and seven across Cardiff and the Vale are being vaccinated against influenza in time for winter.

As the weather turns colder, parents are being urged to get their children protected with a nasal spray to avoid catching the potentially dangerous virus. The spray is safe and pain-free.

While flu is not yet circulating widely, some cases are already being reported in Wales, making this the ideal time to get the vaccine.

Two and three year olds, and four year olds not yet in school, can get the nasal spray from their GP.

Children can only

receive the vaccine if their parents have returned a consent form to the school. It is vital that parents remember to give consent.

There is a higher risk of serious illness from 'flu among children, compared with healthy adults.

Consultant in Public Health Medicine, Dr Tom Porter, said: "We know that children are good at spreading bugs around, especially when they mix with other children."

"Although parents are used to children picking up minor illnesses from time to time, flu can be a more serious and potentially life-threatening condition, so it is well worth taking up the offer of the nasal spray to help protect your child."

The programme runs in schools until December, by which time around 36,000 children in Cardiff and Vale will have been offered the vaccine.

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MP ATTENDS LESOTHO LUNCH



Stephen Doughty MP with Keith Howells, Nigel Gibbs, Rosemary and Jeremy Dix, trustees of PADLT at the final Lesotho Lunch.

THE series of six 'Lesotho Lunches' ended on Friday with the visit of the Patron of the Penarth and District Lesotho Trust (PADLT) to Stanwell Road Baptist Church Hall.

The purpose of the lunches was to raise money to support the poor subsistence farmers of Lesotho who rely on their traditional farming methods for food.

The six lunches plus generous donations have resulted in a fine total of £2,900 being raised by the effectiveness of the work of the churches of Penarth. A rota was created with churches working together to provide the soups, bread,

butter and cheese in the one location. The money raised will be sent to the churches of Lesotho who will, in the most effective way, distribute the money to the villages where there is the greatest need.

This process of distribution was suggested by PADLT which supports the TY Academy in Tayataneng while considering the situation of orphans in the same area being looked after by Father Augustine in the St Cecilia Orphanage.

The next event of PADLT is in Stanwell Road Baptist Church Hall with the Christmas craft fair on Saturday, November 26 from 10am to 12noon. All are welcome.

Tackling fouling with 'HandiPODs'



HandiPODs at the ready! Imogen Stratton-Ross with her dog Frank; Adam Harvey of HandiPODs; and Stephen Abdulla, the local council compliance enforcement officer.

A LLANDOW pet product business has teamed up with the Vale Council to help tackle dog fouling in Barry.

HandiPOD, makes and distributes all-in-one dog poop bag and hand sanitizers across the world and is partnering the council's enforcement team to encourage more dog owners to pick up after their pets.

Both teams took to Barry Island over the weekend, offering dog walkers free HandiPODs, and ensuring the beach

and promenade stayed clear of dog mess.

"Dog fouling is an issue in Barry, as it is right across the UK," said Adam Harvey, of HandiPOD (which is made by Llandow-based pet company Magnet & Steel).

"Dog mess is dangerous and unpleasant and it is completely unnecessary that it litters our pavements and beaches.

"We want to use our innovative local product to first tackle the problem closest to home and encourage more people to clean up after their

"We were delighted that the Vale of Glamorgan Council agreed to lead the way in the battle against dog fouling by joining forces with us to help spread the word that there is a safe and hygienic way to dispose of dog's mess. We hope other councils follow suit."

"We met and spoke to lots of responsible dog owners on the weekend and we were encouraged by their attitude. We look forward to working further in the community to help tackle the issue," Mr Harvey added.

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'Restore regeneration status for Barry'

WELSH Conservatives have repeated calls for Barry to regain its regeneration funding.

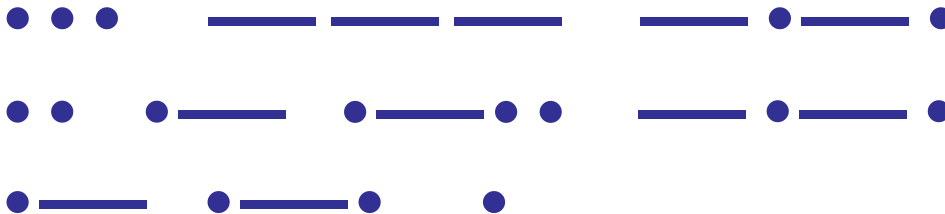
"The town contains some of the most deprived areas of the UK, but has been overlooked for funding since it lost its status as a regeneration area in 2013," a spokesperson said.

South Wales Central regional AM Andrew RT Davies stated the Welsh Government should refocus its efforts on ensuring Barry gets the attention it needs: "Barry is an area that has huge

potential, but it will never be realised if it is not given assistance.

"When the town lost its regeneration status, the Welsh Government claimed it was part of an attempt to better focus resources, but recent examples of waste across the board show they are far away from achieving that.

"The town includes some areas of huge deprivation and we have a duty to work together to turn this around. Restoring its regeneration status would be a good starting point and would be the springboard to a successful future," Mr Davies concluded.



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Bee ready for winter NEWS FROM FONMON APIARY

VARIATIONS in temperature, plus northerly and easterly winds, have much reduced external colony activity but westerly rain-bearing winds will raise temperatures into the teens and this will create conditions that will encourage the foragers to venture out, to exploit any pollen and nectar-producing plants.

All colonies have internal stores to rely on, and as autumn turns into winter, the sources of pollen and nectar will inevitably disappear.

The bees should be well settled by now and very little movement would be the order of the day. In this settled condition little in the way of food is needed. When the bees do settle, they will form a loose 'ball' in the centre of the hive and when and if they want food, it will come from the stores they have put by.

The number of bees in a colony

should reduce with the onset of autumn/winter, but with days that in the main are tending to be dry, mild and sunny, several queens are still laying.

This means that the varroa mite will take advantage of the situation and will also produce offspring. Current beekeeping literature is not keeping pace with these changing conditions and those who are new to beekeeping can be forgiven should they not really know how to react to what is an unusual state of affairs.

However, when – and if – the weather deteriorates, the colonies will settle and providing that in-house stores are laid by, all should be well.

Over the coming winter months, I shall be cleaning (scorching with a blowlamp) wooden hive bodies that will not be required until next year.

Hive tools, smokers and queen excluders will also be cleaned and made ready to be used again, come the spring.

The motto 'Be Prepared' is well worth keeping in mind because the following spring

present good conditions, then the bees will not be slow in responding; and having clean equipment to hand to meet the colonies' demands will stand you in good stead.

As an extra precaution mouse guards will be put across the entrance of each hive.

We might just get a cold snap and, given the opportunity, mice will be only too happy to spend chilly winter months tucked up in a hive where warmth and food are to be had.

Cold weather does affect the bees and although they do not hibernate, they will be comatose and cannot respond to a mouse invasion: this can mean the loss of a colony.

So until the sunny days disappear and temperatures are constantly below 9°C our bees will remain active. Will winter arrive, or will the spring-like conditions continue?

I am watching and continually learning.

HAROLD WILLIAMS

'A SOLDIER'S STORY'

It was wonderful to see all age groups in attendance at Sunday's Remembrance parade in Cowbridge at which we paid our respects to generations of HM Armed Forces personnel who have given their lives in service of our country.

However, what about those people who have survived the conflicts but who have been affected physically or mentally?

In October 2016, I entered a busy cafe at Llandough Hospital and looked for somewhere to sit. In a corner there was a man whose appearance was dreadful; long greasy strands of hair, bushy beard, stained clothes. He smelled so much that other patients sat as far away as they possibly could.

However, I sat at the

next table to him and when I finished my food I asked if he would like me to refill his cup of tea. He replied, in a surprising, Home-Counties' accent: "That is most kind of you, thank you." When I returned with his tea I asked: "You do not have a local accent. Where are you from originally?" I will never forget his reply and the explanation that followed.

He told me that he was once an officer in the British Army. He had been involved in the conflict in Kosovo and Desert Storm. He had served in Iran, Iraq and most recently in Afghanistan. While in Afghanistan he had been in a crowded market place with a radio operator when a local man shouted out "suicide bomber" and pointed to a heavily-clothed person who reacted but, fortunately for the market crowd, not quickly enough.

The officer then said that he instinctively made one shot and killed

the attempted bomber outright. When they approached the dead person there were indeed bombs concealed beneath the heavy clothing, but they also concealed the appearance of a teenage girl.

That discovery, he said, had haunted him ever since. He suffered post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and was consequently discharged from the army.

When he returned to the UK he had nowhere to live. He had no family or friends – the Army had provided that. For several years he wandered around London, calling at hostels, sleeping on park benches, street corners, beneath bridges. He added that the hardest thing is finding accommodation.

Because of his PTSD background, no one wanted to know. He explained that he got turned away almost everywhere because their perception was that "homeless means trouble".

I asked about his PTSD and seeking treatment. He replied that he had walked from hospital to hospital and each time they turned him away allegedly due to lack of beds and said that it was "more appropriate for him to see his GP". He said that he had given up hope until another homeless man suggested that he travelled to Wales "because their assessment process is more helpful".

Subsequently, this former officer had walked from London to Cardiff and was admitted to the hospital during the night. His story left me upset and emotional. Here was a man who served Queen and country. Daily, he had

risked his life in order to achieve the freedom and safety of others. As a result of his action in saving the lives of the market traders he then suffered PTSD that consequently led to his discharge, although having heard his story, it seemed to me that the word 'discarded' was more appropriate than discharged.

I was interested to read online that in the United States there is a campaign supporting free medical health care for their veterans.

When I read that, my first reaction was that although here in the UK we have the NHS, I was aware of one-too-many cases of our health service having let down veterans for far too long.

There are currently over 9,000 ex-military personnel sleeping rough in the UK. Fortunately, the vast majority of servicemen make a good transition back into civilian life.

Some do not.

Often, this is due to the life they led in the service of their country.

Those who are physically or mentally damaged by their experiences fighting for us deserve our support in return. The Government must look after them unstintingly, because whatever the cost to the taxpayer, it will be less than the debt we owe them.

I hope that some of The GEM's readers will think about these ex-servicemen and consider charities such as www.helpforheroes.org.uk, www.homesforveterans.co.uk, as well as www.britishtlegion.org.uk.

Gareth Davies,
(Cowbridge and Dubai).

Search for new Welsh music talent

ARTS CONNECT – a partnership between local authorities across the Vale, Bridgend, Caerphilly and Merthyr Tydfil has secured funding from the Arts Council Wales to re-launch the Forté Project.

Now in its second year, the project will again take on 10 emerging music artists from across the Arts Connect regions, with the application process now

open to individual song writers, duos and bands.

It supports new Welsh talent by providing song-writing workshops, industry seminars, rehearsal space, recording sessions and live opportunities.

An application form is available at www.forteproject.co.uk, with completed applications needing to be returned, via email, before the deadline on Sunday, November 13.

For more information, email info@forteproject.co.uk.

Out & About with The GEM

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Denis Villeneuve's 'Arrival' is one of the films of the year...

DENIS VILLENEUVE hasn't put a foot wrong since making his Hollywood breakthrough with *Prisoners* in 2013. *Enemy* was a study in psychological terror, while drug cartel thriller *Sicario* was one of the most compelling films of last year.

While he is currently filming *Blade Runner 2049*, a sequel to Ridley Scott's 1982 classic, his latest film sees him tackle science-fiction in *Arrival*.

Amy Adams plays linguist Dr Louise Banks, who is called upon by the US Government when spaceships start appearing around the world. Tasked with translating what they are saying and communicating with the ships, Banks, along with Ian Donnelly (Jeremy Renner), must try and bring the world together – do the spaceships come in peace or with something more sinister in mind...

Alien spaceships descend on Earth; a panicked planet wonders just what they are here for, while Government agents set about solving

the puzzle of their emergence in our skies – *Arrival's* set-up is one that cleaves close to any number of 'alien' films, from *Independence Day* to *The Day The Earth Stood Still*.

Yet on this most familiar of frameworks, director Denis Villeneuve and screenwriter Eric Heisserer have created one of the most engaging, emotionally-captivating and intelligent films of the year, one that takes what could have been clichéd and predictable and enriches it with smarts and heart that makes it linger with you long after viewing.

Villeneuve is quickly developing a reputation for building on formula; after all, when the likes of *Sicario* and *Prisoners* are stripped back then they are, at heart, genre films. But it's Villeneuve's ability to get the characters to connect that lifts them, and this film is no different.

On the surface clichés abound, whether it's Amy Adams' troubled linguist professor, seemingly drawn off from the world around, and who sees the task of translating the alien messages as a call to arms, the harried



by
GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen
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@GEMScreenTalk

running of various soldier and government officials as they seek to find out the aliens' purpose, or the fact that not everyone views these visitors as peaceful.

But what is clever is the way these are folded into the story; this is, in its own way, a tale about humanity, about faith and overcoming tragedy, one that is told directly from inside the small camp based around the alien craft.

We see glimpses of the outside world (looting and a general unease about the situation) and how other countries are responding to these alien crafts, but these just add more flavour to what is

already a heady story.

As the plot unravels, we learn why the aliens are here, and how Louise's importance to the plot increases. Villeneuve carefully balances this with a race-against-time element that, while slightly formulaic, adds another degree of tension that lifts the film towards a climax that is both heartfelt and perfectly-judged.

The performances are tremendous, Amy Adams shining in the lead as Louise, perfectly capturing her weariness and subsequent desire to get across the aliens' true message at all costs, while Jeremy Renner may not have much to work with opposite her, but the pair dovetail very nicely and make for an engaging lead pair.

The rest of the cast is filled out well with strong actors granting familiar characters a degree of depth, whether it's Forest Whitaker's army colonel whose faith in the pair is tested, or Michael Stuhlbarg's shadowy and pessimistic agent who isn't prepared to give these new visitors to Earth the benefit of the doubt.

It all adds up to a smart and engaging mix, one that pulls you one way and then the other before ending the film with a low-key climax that couldn't be further away from the generic blockbusters that its premise cleaves so close to.

And it's that that makes *Arrival* so powerful, so engaging; it's all about subtlety, not alien v human shootouts and aerial spaceship dogfights, but about the battle within humanity to do the right thing, to take a risk with the unknown.

It's a film that, based on the events of the past week across the pond, proves that not all is lost, that we can do better – and there no stronger feeling than that.

VERDICT: One of the year's highlights, *Arrival* is an intelligent, thought-provoking and emotionally-engaging take on a genre archetype, brought superbly to life by director Denis Villeneuve and writer Eric Heisserer. With strong performances from the cast, it's a film that will resonate long after the credits roll. Essential viewing.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *Sicario* (2014), *Close Encounters of the Third Kind* (1977).

What's on, and where?

Tai Chi

FREE Tai Chi sessions started on November 16.

The venue for the second session on November 23, is Gladstone Park, Gladstone Road, Barry.

This is a basic Tai Chi session, where Tai Chi and Chi Gung practitioners will demonstrate softening exercises to strengthen the core and improve the balance.

Please note: these sessions are not official teaching classes, but a sharing of skills and knowledge.

Although the organisers do not anticipate any ill effects, and this would be highly unlikely, those participating do so at their own risk, they warn.

Those with health concerns are advised to first consult with their GP.

Contact PCSO Rhianon Cummings for further details, or to book a place on 079707 36885.

Healthy craft fair!

THIS Saturday, November 19, from 12 noon – 4pm, a health and wellbeing event offers a free health check while shopping for festive gifts at St Mary's Church, Holton Road, Barry.

You'll be able to get your blood pressure checked, speak with representatives from charities and find out more about what Barry Town Council does, from the Mayor!

Councillors' surgery

INDEPENDENT Sully and Lavernock councillors Kevin Mahoney and Bob Penrose will hold a residents' surgery and coffee morning on Saturday, November 19 between 11am and 12.30pm in the Old School Rooms, South Road, Sully.

All proceeds to the Sully and Lavernock Community Library Trust. Feel free to come along and raise any issue that you feel needs to be aired, or questions that you would like answered in an informal atmosphere.

Bear Pak market

CHILDREN'S holiday and after-school club Bear Pak, based in Penarth, will hold a Christmas market on November 19 at Holy Trinity Church, Woodlands Place, Penarth.

All kinds of crafts, preserves, toys, food hampers and Christmas gift ideas, plus refreshments and a raffle will be there. The fair will take place from 12.30pm – 3pm.

Care and Repair at Age Connects

IF you are a home owner or private tenant living in the Vale; elderly, disabled, possibly in need of advice and support on repairs or home improvements, Care and Repair Cardiff and Vale can help.

Advice on grants is available, plus information on reputable companies to use at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale on Tuesday, November 22 from 10am – 12pm.

Come to the Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry; no appointment needed. Telephone 01446 732385 for further information.

SCAMS are a big issue for the elderly, as people can be easily tricked, whether it be online, by telephone, or face to face.

If you have been the victim of a scam and want help reporting it, come along to Age Connects on Tuesday, November 22 from 10am to 12pm. You can talk to an adviser who specialises in this; leaflets and information will be available on the latest scams and how to deal with them.

Call the Age Connects number above for further information. **AGE Connects will be holding a Christmas fair on Tuesday, November 29 in the Civic Offices Corporate Suite, from 10am – 12pm; admission is free.**

A range of attractive stalls, including cakes, crafts made by Age Connects Stitch and Bitch; home-made Christmas decorations, jewellery, tombola, refreshments and a prize draw. Tickets 20p.

DIY festive greetings
FREE computer classes at Atlantic College offer the chance to create your own computer-produced festive messages to send to loved ones and friends.

The students will help people make and produce their own digital greetings cards and letters on November 22, November 29 and December 6. Laser cutouts and printed products included.

All computing abilities welcome. Call Christine on 01446 799076 for more information.

Clairvoyance evening

CADOXTON Christian Spiritual Church are holding their last evening of clairvoyance for 2016 on Thursday, November 24, with medium Julian Jenkins.

Doors open 6.30pm, the service lasts from 7pm – 8.30pm. Admission £5, on the door. All are welcome; proceeds to church renovation.

Cor Meibion Maesteg ar Cylch

ON Friday, November 25 this choir visits Pencoed Welfare Hall to perform a concert in aid of Age Connect.

The concert starts at 6.30pm and tickets (from Robert Doyle) are £5 and can be delivered.

His telephone number is 01656 669288.

NSPCC trip to Bath

THE St Hilary NSPCC committee has organised a Christmas coach trip to Bath on Saturday, November 26.

Enjoy a day out in this beautiful, historic city with its Christmas market, shops and restaurants. A visitor's pack will be available. The coach leaves Cowbridge Town Hall at 8.30am with a pick-up at Culverhouse Cross at 8.45am, and leaves Bath at 4.30pm.

Tickets are £15 from Ewa on 01446 771728 or any committee member.

Messy Church

THE next children's Messy Church at Crossway Methodist Church in Barry will be a 'Messy Christmas' on Wednesday, November 30 from 3.30pm.

There will be messy crafts, Bible stories, songs, and party food! A parent/guardian must be present.

For more details, or to book your place, contact Deacon Samantha Taylor on 406262 or deaconsam@live.co.uk. Visit our Methodist Facebook page 'Vale of Glamorgan Methodist Circuit' for information on the churches.

Bowling Club fair

THE Windsor Bowling Club will hold their Christmas fair on Saturday, December 3, at the clubhouse in Robinswood Crescent, Penarth.

There will be cake, toy, book and bottle stalls, a beautiful Christmas cake to be won, bran tub, plants and Christmas flower arrangements; bric-a-brac and a hamper raffle. Entry £1, starting at 10am.

Drivers sought

GOOD Neighbours in the western Vale (01446 795549) and the eastern Vale (01446 747654) have renewed their appeal for volunteer drivers to help the elderly do their shopping.

Contact Bridget Palmer, Good Neighbours volunteer co-ordinator, Unit 1, Commercial Street, Llantwit Major (CF61 1UX); 01446 795549.

A warm festive welcome awaits at Studio SixtyFive!

YOU will be greeted with a warm festive welcome over the forthcoming weeks at Cardiff's premier photography studio, located on Freeman's Parc, Penarth Road.

Family, friends or even your pet pooch can experience one of our Christmas Mini Photo Shoots!

Our professional photographer will capture a magical moment for you to enjoy and share, as the perfect Christmas gift this year!

You could even use your image to

create your own personalised Christmas cards!

Mini sessions include a 30-minute photo shoot to strike your best pose (we would love to see you in your festive outfits, too) and one of your favourite images.

Weekday, evening and weekend slots are available, but don't delay in booking as spaces are filling up fast!

To reserve your slot, call today on 029 2039 9922, or email jo@studiosixtyfive.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you!

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High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



WEST END BARRY SAYS: 'LET US ENTERTAIN YOU THIS CHRISTMAS!'



Archie and Bert from 'Fanshaws Fantastical Emporium of the Impossible'. These cheeky chappies will be providing street entertainment and magic to wow the crowds on the evening the Christmas lights are switched on at High Street (See more pictures on page 23).

THE West End, Barry, is among the elite of Britain's local shopping areas because it has such a high percentage of independent businesses – which means it is dedicated to the best in personal service and providing something that little bit extra.

This year, it is excelling itself, with a range of events to delight all its customers. On Friday, November 25, the lights will be switched on and there's an array of entertainment.

That's followed by a 'Fizz Night' on Thursday, December 1, at which shops will host late night shopping with wine, mulled wine and other temptations.

December 3, is Shop Local Saturday. And there's a special 'Artisan Market' on

by GEM REPORTER

Monday, December 12.

Local businesswoman, Fay Blakeley, explained: "The switch-on event is Victorian-themed with entertainment, which starts at 4pm. Traders are promising to dress in Victorian garb – and visitors can, too!

"There will be choirs, stalls in West End, and Bro Radio will host things on the stage. The switch-on will take place at 6.30pm.

"There's a special raffle at £1 a strip. Traders have donated prizes, so all someone's Christmas shopping could be dealt with in one go!

"Proceeds will go to future West End events. Santa will be the star guest.

"The Christmas lights will also go down Island Road this year. We have to thank

father and son, Mike and Jack Rudman, for that. They freely gave their time to get the lights up.

"The 'Fizz Night' will see businesses putting on a fun shopping event, with things like sparkling wine, mulled wine, special promotions, and raffles.

"The Christmas lights will all be on and there will be a great atmosphere.

"The shops will host lanterns with a letter of the alphabet, which will make up a phrase. There will be a prize for everyone who takes part.

"The Artisan Market will have lots of crafts and local produce and will run from 10am until 4pm."

So a great line-up of events, plus outstanding shopping... Can you now see why Barry's West End is nationally recognised? (See article below).

Giggles

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High Street, Barry, is in UK top five!

BARRY is one of the top five locations in Britain for independent shops, according to a new survey.

Figures released by the Local Data Company reveal more than 91 per cent of shops in the town's West End area are independently run.

High Street, in particular, is heavily populated by independent traders and overall, West End has the fourth highest proportion of independent shops in the UK.

Only Sparkhill in Birmingham (95 per cent), London's Portobello Road (94.7 per cent) and Goodmayes in Ilford (94.1 per cent) boast a greater concentration.

A Vale Council spokesperson explained: "To show our continuing support for town centres, the Vale will help fund a programme of Christmas events around High Street and hold regular meetings with traders to help coordinate activities.

"These include a Victorian-costumed festive lights switch on event on Friday, November 25 and a Christmas market on Saturday, December 10.

"In addition, work has also already begun on a £700,000 scheme to provide more parking spaces and improve pedestrian safety on High Street, with a total of 36 new car parking spaces being created.

"New road crossings will also be built for pedestrians that will be safer and more convenient for those with disabilities.

Coun Lis Burnett said: "High Street has so much to offer, with a

diverse blend of independently-owned shops to choose from. With the festive season approaching, it is the perfect place for Christmas shopping.

"The area is part of a strong, independent Vale shopping scene, with Cowbridge and Penarth other places with a rich selection of these kinds of shops.

"The broad range of independent retail outlets around High Street provides a

unique, personal touch, something consumers are increasingly searching for these days.

"Independent shops, bars and cafes are opening at their fastest

rate in years and we believe the fact High Street has one of the highest proportions of these types of outlets in the country is something to celebrate."

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a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year

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Meet the Grinch!

PLEASE join us for Grinch-mas at Willowmere Home Care Agency, on Friday, November 25, at 124 High Street, Barry, raising money for elderly people alone at Christmas. Face painting, hot chocolate, Whoville Village, Grinch games, hot food, sweets, prizes and photos with the Grinch. All the fun starts at 4.30pm.



Habara's

Christmas Lunch

~ Starter ~

Homemade Broccoli & Saiton Soup (V)
Served with crusty bread roll

Deep Fried Chicken Strips
Served with sweet chilli sauce & salad

Smoked Salmon Roulade
Served with lemon & dill dressing

Duck & Orange Pate
Served with a seasonal compote & toasted ciabatta

Bruschetta Salad
Served on crispy salad & marie rose sauce

~ Main ~

Roast Breast of Turkey
Served with Yorkshire pudding & pigs in blankets

Braised Beef
Beef slowly cooked with root vegetables and red wine in a rich gravy and served with parmentier potatoes

Pork Loin Steak
Served with a cider & wholegrain mustard sauce

Baked Sea Bass Fillets
With chilli and spring onion

ALL MAIN COURSES SERVED WITH VEGETABLES, ROAST POTATOES & HOMEMADE GRAVY

~ Dessert ~

Traditional Christmas Pudding
Served with brandy sauce

Warm Rich Chocolate Brownie

Vanilla Cheesecake
With a mulled wine compote

Winter Berry Pavlova

£14.95 per person

Merry Christmas

80-81 High Street, Barry 01446 721425

AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

Meet the businesses...



Tony Hopkins of popular local butchers Vic Hopkins & Son, told The GEM: "We've got our Christmas order forms ready, so customers can pop in and pick one up. To enable us to process their festive order in time, they need to fill out the form and hand it in with a £10 deposit by Friday, December 16." For more information, tel 01446 735265.



Food for Thought has just celebrated its thirty third anniversary! All the staff would like to wish their customers a very happy Christmas. Pop in now to pick up your festive order form for home cooked meats, uncooked meats, party foods, and salads (last orders, Thursday, December 15). The deli's Scout Post collection date is Monday, December 5.



Anwarul Haque Rahat is ready to receive all your Christmas letters and parcels at the 'best-one' Post Office.



Helen from Beautiful Lily at 92 High Street will be making lots of beautiful table arrangements, garlands and wreaths this Christmas. All are created by Helen herself and she's taking orders now.

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE ORDER, SECTION 16A ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

HIGH STREET BARRY CHRISTMAS EVENT

FRIDAY 25th NOVEMBER 2016

Order Under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984
For the prevention of obstruction etc

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Vale of Glamorgan Council have made an order under Section 16A Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 as follows:-

WHEREAS during certain hours of the day and date specified in column 1 of the Schedule hereto the streets or part thereof listed in column 2 of the said schedule will be used for the holding of a relevant event as described in Section 16(A)(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, the Council, pursuant to the powers conferred by Section 16A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 do **HEREBY ORDER AND DIRECT** in order to facilitate the holding of the event, enable members of the public to watch the said event and to reduce the disruption to traffic likely to be caused by the event the following regulation shall be observed:-

THAT, except as provided by the order, the said streets or parts thereof shall be closed to all vehicular traffic, including pedal cycles, with the exception of Emergency Services Vehicles between the hours specified in column 3 of the said schedule. The penalty for infringement of the said regulation is a fine not exceeding £1000.00.

Schedule

Column 1	Column 2	Column 3
Friday 25th November 2016	High Street Barry , between Market Street and East Street	2.00pm to 9.30pm
	Island Road Barry , between Broad Street and Queen Street	2.00pm to 9.30pm

Local signed diversions shall be in place.

Dated this 17th day of November 2016

M. E. Punter
Director of Environment & Housing
Vale of Glamorgan Council
The Alps, Wenvoe. CF5 6AA



CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG GORCHYMYN CAU FFORDD DROS DRO, ADRAN 16A DEDDF RHEOLEIDDIO TRAFFIG FFYRDD 1984

DIGWYDDIAD NADOLIG HEOL FAWR Y BARRI

DYDD GWENER 25 TACHWEDD 2016

Gorchymyn Dan Adran 16A Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 I atal rhwystro ayyb

RHODDIR HYSBYSIAD DRWY HYN fod Cyngor Bro Morgannwg wedi gwneud y gorchymyn canlynol dan Adran 16A Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984:-

yn ystod oriau penodol o'r diwrnod ac ar y dyddiad a nodir yng ngholofn 1 yr Atodlen caiff y strydoedd neu'r rhannau o'r strydoedd a nodir yng ngholofn 2 yr Atodlen honno eu defnyddio i gynnal digwyddiad perthnasol fel y disgrifiir yn Adran 16(A) (1) Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984, mae'r Cyngor yn unol â'r pwerau a ddwyfennir iddo dan Adran 16A Deddf Rheoleiddio Traffig Ffyrdd 1984 yn **GORCHYMYN AC YN CYFEIRIO** er mwyn hwyluso'r gwaith o gynnal y digwyddiad, galluogi aelodau'r cyhoedd i wylu'r digwyddiad hwnnw ac i leihau ar unrhyw effaith ar draffig a achosir gan y digwyddiad, gydymffurfiaeth â'r rheoliad canlynol:-

CYFYNGIR, ac eithrio i'r hyn y darperir ar ei gyfer yn y gorchymyn, y defnydd o'r strydoedd neu'r rhannau o'r strydoedd a nodir i'r holl draffig cerbydau, gan gynnwys beiciau pedal, ac eithrio Cerbydau'r Gwasanaethau Brys, rhwng yr oriau a nodir yng ngholofn 3 o'r atodlen a nodir. Y gosb am dorri'r rheoliad yw dirwy hyd at £1000.00.

Atodlen

Colofn 1	Colofn 2	Colofn 3
Dydd Gwener 25 Tachwedd 2016	Heol Fawr y Barri , rhwng Market Street ac East Street	2.00pm tan 9.30pm
	Island Road y Barri , rhwng Broad Street a Heol-y-Frenhines	2.00pm tan 9.30pm

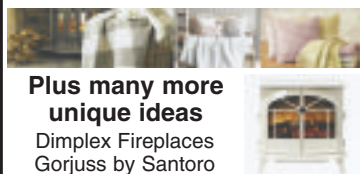
Bydd Arwyddion i'r Gwrydd yn cael eu gosod
Dyddiedig 17 Tachwedd 2016

M. E. Punter
Cyfarwyddwr yr Amgylchedd a Thai
Cyngor Bro Morgannwg
Yr Alpau Gwenn CF5 6AA



DESIGN @ 99

Home accessories, luxury throws, cushions, art, unusual candles, gifts for ladies and men.



Plus many more unique ideas

Dimplex Fireplaces
Gorjuss by Santoro

Join us for our prosecco night
Thursday 1st December
5pm - 7.30pm
10% OFF for 1 night only
Free glass of bubbly.

99 High Street, Barry, CF62 7DS
design99showroom
01446 410034 www.design-99.co.uk



Butterflies, host to hundreds of gifts, has a special upstairs Christmas shop that is legendary in High Street, a tribute to all that is wonderful about the festive season – Santa even came to open it, delighting the children. On the day a raffle was held for Noah's Ark. Search Facebook for 'Yankee Candles in Barry' for more details of one of Butterflies' most popular products. Good news – gift wrapping is free!

BADDELEY'S

KEY CUTTING and SHOE REPAIRS

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walking sticks, wallets,
purses and watch straps.



98 HIGH STREET, BARRY
Tel/Fax (01446) 742838

High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY

Bespoke Jewellery Workshop will make your dream a reality



Rob and Geoff at Bespoke Jewellery Workshop at 4 Island Road can make your 'jewellery dream a reality'. If you go in to see them with a design idea, they will make it to order. As Rob says: "We've made some weird and wonderful things over the years." Tie pins, wedding rings, old jewellery turned into a contemporary design – they can do it all. Browse their showroom, if you want some inspiration, or want to buy an original piece as a gift.



ABOVE: Take a break from West End shopping with drinks and a bite to eat at Cwtch Coffee, 94 High Street – it's renowned for its friendly atmosphere.



If you are looking for a beauty treatment or a little pampering in the lead-up to Christmas or for a staff party, The Beauty Clinic at 43 High Street has a great reputation for delivering high quality treatments by highly trained and qualified beauticians. The owner Michaela aims to use the most up to date technology and the latest is Comcit (TM) a treatment that smooths facial skin for a more youthful look. The Beauty Clinic specialises in all aspects of beauty treatments including waxing, nail extensions and facials. To book an appointment, call 01446 743222.

Jade

BOUTIQUE

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a Happy New
Year to all our
customers**

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Easy Parking Available





High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE



THAT SPECIAL GIFT IS ON YOUR DOORSTEP...



Giggles Toy Shop hosts a wonderful collection of high quality, traditional toys.

RIGHT: Miss Holmes stocks top brands like the sparkly and highly collectable Annie Haak jewellery. The owner Nicola wishes all her customers a 'Very Happy Christmas'.

INDEPENDENT shops are renowned for sourcing the very best products to keep their customers happy.

West End Barry is blessed with entrepreneurs determined to provide high quality and good prices, meaning you don't have to spend time and petrol going to Cardiff or a distant retail park.

A new entry on High Street is **Design 99** owned by Lana Nova.

Lana explained: "We opened in May and this

is our first Christmas. We are a home accessories and 'unusual gift' shop.

"We do Dimplex fireplaces, candles, Bronte throws and cushions, handbags, money boxes, mugs, and the Santoro Gorjuss gift range."

Lana also sells her Russian art collection, for people who want something that little bit different.

Giggles Toy Shop owner Jill has a wonderful collection of high quality, traditional toys.

The shop is bright and spacious and stocks traditional, durable



wooden toys, children's books in English and Welsh, cuddly toys, board games, party costumes, dolls' houses, ornaments and puzzles.

In February, Jill will celebrate four successful years on High Street. On Christmas Eve, a Saturday this year, Jill will stay open until mid-afternoon for people wanting to pick up last-minute presents.

Someone with a talent for sourcing top quality gifts is Nicola, the owner of **Miss Holmes**.

Nicola said: "We're now in our eighth year and I want to say a big 'thank you' to everybody who has supported us."

"We're a business for local people who can't get into Cardiff. I started during the recession, determined to do something for where I live, and we've gone from strength to strength."

Nicola stocks top

brands like the sparkly and collectable Annie Haak jewellery, a range that was inspired in an unusual way.

Annie's husband Jonny was involved in a motorcycling accident in Bali and she flew to his bedside. While there she began sketching jewellery designs and found a local silversmith who transformed them into sterling silver charms. Now there's a huge range of bracelets, necklaces, rings and earrings – and Nicola is your local supplier!

She also stocks other top gift brands Katie Loxton, Joma Jewellery, Qudo, Ted Baker and Ashleigh and Burwood of London. A browse at Miss Holmes is definitely recommended.

Fay Blakeley, who owns **Homemade Wales**, is wishing everyone a 'very Welsh Christmas'.

**CONTINUED
ON PAGE 23**



Boosting Wales and the Welsh economy is Fay at 'Homemade Wales' located at 5 Island Road. Every product in the shop is produced in Wales.

Miss Holmes

THE SHOP FOR EXCLUSIVE GIFTS

- Joma Jewellery
- Katie Loxton
- Qudo Collection
- Annie Haak Jewellery
- Ted Baker
- Mens' & Ladies' quality gifts
- Carrie Elspeth
- Woodwick Candles
- Soy based, crackles as it burns.
- Powder
- Autumn/Winter 2016 Collection
- Vendula London
- Emile Et Rose
- Ashleigh & Burwood
- Home Fragrance. Best selling fragrance lamps and diffusers

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f missholmesbarry

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www.bespokejewelleryworkshop.co.uk

Pick up that special gift...



Lana Nova of Design 99, at 99 High Street, has an array of products and gifts to browse this Christmas, including fireplaces, candles, Bronte throws and cushions, handbags, and the Santoro Gorjuss gift range.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

She has established a Welsh 'gift boutique' at 5 Island Road, specialising in handcrafted gifts and homewares made only in Wales.

She said: "As the nights draw in and it gets chillier, it's the right time for Welsh tweed throws and comfy cushions. Time to cwtch up on a cold night!"

"Our tweed scarves, which are all woven, are made round the Brecon Beacons."

Fay's tweeds, scarves and Welsh blankets are high quality and can become family heirlooms to pass on to the next generation.

She is looking forward to seeing people at the Amelia Trust Christmas Fair at Cottrell Park Golf Resort this Saturday, November 19, 11am-4pm.

High Street, Broad Street, Island Road & Market Street, BARRY ...AN IMAGINATIVE CHRISTMAS EXPERIENCE

The Smelly Shop has that 'touch of class'... and issues an invite for December 1!



'The Smelly Shop' based at 100 High Street, Barry, is a stylish fashion, home accessories and fragrance business run by Emma (above) and Ceri.

The ladies are about to celebrate their second Christmas on High Street. Their enthusiasm is infectious – and no wonder when you see their alluring range of products. As you enter, the scents are intoxicating!

They stock Lily-Flame Candles which will bring a lovely fragrance to your home; they are an official supplier of products by The Soap Shop which are fresh, natural and organic; they're passionate about their range of jewellery and Ferrari-Lane candles.

There's lots more and the ladies are inviting everyone along to a special evening on Thursday, December 1.

Emma explained: "We're having a late night Thursday with mulled wine, minced pies, discounts, and raffles. It's an opportunity for us to talk about our products with customers, and make bookings for gift baskets to be made up."

Street's Brasserie Charcoal Grill

- Prime Scotch Steak • Superb selection of Chicken Dishes • Fresh Salmon
- Salad Bar • Extensive choice of Desserts including Speciality Pancakes
- Selection of Wines

4 Broad Street, Barry
Tel 01446 721440
Closed 23rd December
Re-Opening Tuesday January 5th



LEFT: Richard Jones Carpets at 25 Broad Street, has a carpet, laminate or cushioned floor to fit every room in your house and there's still time to order and get it fitted before Christmas! The staff wish all their customers 'Happy Christmas and Happy New Year'.



For all your coverage of Christmas in High Street, read your GEM - find us online at: glamorgangem.co.uk on Facebook at [facebook.com/glamorgangem](https://www.facebook.com/glamorgangem) GEM, and on Twitter: @gem_news

The Christmas menu is out at Habana Bar and Grill, 80-81 High Street and you can book your festive meal on 01446 721425.

Habana is known for its good quality, affordable meals and is open seven days a week. It has special meal deals and its Sunday roast is very popular. Habana is open 10am to 11pm, Monday to Thursday; and 10am to 3.30am Friday and Saturday. Food is served from 10am to 3pm, and from 6pm onwards in the evenings.

Let High Street entertain you!



There are fun rides at the Christmas Victorian night.



Victorian entertainment and stalls are coming to Barry's West End!

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Butterflies

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Plus ... Christmas Shop Upstairs

Free Gift Wrapping

Local Deliveries

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'Yankee Candles in Barry'

8 High Street

Silver Star celebrates its 125th anniversary in Barry



AUTHOR'S NEW BOOK



Phil Carradice.

ST ATHAN author Phil Carradice, who has written more than 50 books, has recently published a new tome, *The Call Up - A Study of National Service in Peacetime Britain* (Fonthill Media at £18.99) and as an ex-National Service soldier myself, I found myself looking back on my own National Service days.

Believe it or not, I was a cook in the officers' mess and worked alongside a civilian chef called Mrs Goddard.

I was surprised to learn that the last conscript to be called up, in 1963, was Private Fred Turner, a member of my old regiment the Army Catering Corps.

National Service in Britain began in 1947 and I still have my Discharge Army Book 111 dated November 2, 1956.

For my military conduct, I am pleased to say that the range of military conduct gradings (1) Very Good (2) Good (3) Fair (4) Indifferent (5) Bad (6) Very Bad my CO had scored me 'Very Good'.

On the back of this

pink certificate of discharge my CO had written: 'Pte Lee has been employed in the Officers' Mess as a cook. He has proved very satisfactory. He is a hard worker, clean and tidy and take an interest in his work. He is able to carry out his duties with no supervision. He is honest and trustworthy and a very reliable type.'

As it happens, the day before I got demobbed, I was put on a charge - owing to my room being in a bit of a mess. However, when I told the duty officer that I was due to be released the next day, he dropped the charges.

Like the majority of former National Servicemen who contributed their experiences to this enjoyable book, I don't regret for one minute now having to do my two years, but I must admit that at the time I was called up, I thought my whole world had come to an end!

With more than 60 contemporary images and numerous first-hand accounts, *The Call Up* provides a fascinating perspective on National Service, and the young men who served during this period.

BRIAN LEE

WALLPAPERS, paints and lots of other bargains will be on sale for only £1.25 each at the Silver Star decorating and DIY store on Barry Docks this weekend.

This is all to celebrate 125 years since John Sylvester came to the new town of Barry, from Taunton in Somerset, to found a high class decorating business.

In the late 1890s, the first shop was opened in High Street, Barry and in 1904 the business relocated to Cross Street and Station Street in Barry Dock where business continued through three generations of the family until Mrs Violet Sylvester sold the property in the 1980s.

The decorating business expanded considerably when led by the eldest son of John Sylvester - also John - and vehicle painting works were opened in Thompson Street and Kendrick Road. John Sylvester Junior was a master craftsman, indeed an artist, a highly talented signwriter, gilder in real gold and silver leaf, wood grainer and wallpaper hanger.

The firm claimed to have worked on houses in every street in the original town of Barry and work also included decorating churches, fairground rides, steam traction engines, and the great fair organ from Barry Island fairground.

Work also included the painting of

the Barry lifeboat, Barry's early buses, and of course houses and shops.

Sylvester's red-painted handcart with yellow signwriting were familiar around Barry carrying ladders and decorating materials to and from contracts in many areas of the town.

In the early 1930s with the depression causing a reduction in work in Barry, a contract was gained from the Gelligaer District Council to maintain the coachwork and signwriting of their fleet of buses, and the Sylvester vans travelled daily from Barry to Bargoed for over 10 years.

After the death of John Sylvester in 1964, the decorating business ceased and was developed into Barry's first big decor and DIY store.

Today, the business is run by David and Terry Sylvester, grandsons of John Sylvester. Silver Star in Barry has a large selection of beautiful wallpapers and probably even more than in Cardiff. There are over 600 different wallpapers in stock at the store, all with the Silver Star guarantee which is: 'If you can find a lower price elsewhere, including online, Silver Star will give you a lower price.'

Everyone at Silver Star looks forward to welcoming many customers over the coming days, including those whose parents, grandparents and even great-grandparents will have been customers in past years, and everyone will be invited to join us in a free glass of wine (or orange juice) and slice of celebration birthday cake.

TS

Llantwit Major Boys Brigade's mixed success on the road

IT has been an extremely busy weekend for 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade; a team of three boys took part in the BB National Table Tennis Competition on November 12.

They travelled to Gloucester where they received a warm welcome. Unfortunately, they were knocked out of the competition, but the boys played very well. Well done to Morgan Edwards, Samuel Stewart and Thomas Edwards.

Then it was off to Cheltenham for the first round of the BB National Masterteam (quiz) competition, where they joined Dylan Johnston, Luke Thomas, Zac Duffin, Rebecca Eccleston and Lydia Lee.

Nationally, 43 teams have entered this competition, with only 20 going through to Round 2. Questions ranged from Bible Knowledge and sport to spot the difference and famous landmarks.

For the latest stories and breaking news...

glamorgan-gem.co.uk

The B Team were, unfortunately, knocked out of the competition, but the A Team finished first in our group on the night (by a clear 19 points) and go through to the next round in December.

Well done to Dylan, Samuel, Morgan and Luke - good luck in December!

The company was proud to participate in Remembrance Sunday. The Anchors, Juniors and Company Section all looked very smart and it was a privilege to be able to pay our respects in this way.

Mrs D Chapman, Officer, 2nd Llantwit Major Boys' Brigade

Lively Ludo is looking for a home



THE GEM is working with the Dogs Trust, Bridgend, to find loving homes for their canine guests.

Rhiannon from the Trust said: "Our Dog of the Week is the lovely Ludo, a one-year-old Jack Russell Terrier. His new owners will need to be experienced Terrier owners, as Ludo is a very active and clever boy who will need mental as well as physical stimulation or he will go looking for his own fun."

"Ludo can be let for small periods of time on his own and live with children over 14 years of age. He will need training with his dog socialisation. If you can offer Ludo a loving home, call us on 01656 725219, or visit our website."



125 YEARS CELEBRATION SALE

In the reign of Queen Victoria John Sylvester came to the new town of Barry to begin his Decorating, Wallpaper & Paint Business. The Sylvester family welcome you today to a store full of bargains to celebrate 125 years in Barry.

STARTS 9am THIS FRIDAY

WALLPAPERS

100's of rolls at £1.25 a roll

Paints - 5 litre £1.25

Matt & Silk: off white & a few colours

Also 2.5 litre & 1 litre all £1.25

Curtains & Bedding all £1.25

Curtain Materials all £1.25 yard or metre

Fabric Roller Blinds £1.25 each

& other sizes £1.95, £2.50, £2.95 choice of colours

Laminate Flooring £1.25

Kitchen & bathroom tile pattern: a plank

Childrens Wallpapers £1.25 roll

Vinyl Floor Tiles

Last few £1.25 pack

Furniture Items £12.50 each Many other bargains including

Curtain Rails from £2.99

Carpets & Rugs from £2 each

Over 600 other wallpapers in store from £2.99 to £29 a roll

Quality Italian Vinyls below half price £9.95 a roll

Brilliant White Matt & Silk 5 litre £3.99

Silver Star

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A Magical Festive Experience

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ABOVE: A peek inside The Pencil Case.



A warm welcome awaits at Colours.

ARE you looking forward to the mad rush of the Christmas shopping season?

...The horrendous traffic into the city centre, the struggle to find a parking space, and then fighting through the crowds as the seasonal madness takes hold? It can all be so much simpler...

Come to Cowbridge!

You will find no long queues, and there's free parking with a wide variety of interesting shops and businesses, all ready to make your life easier and so much more relaxing.

The town still has a healthy percentage of shops that are not part of large chains, and where there is a strong chance that the person serving you is the owner!

Many of the businesses have their own supply chains that they have cultivated for years, and you will find things in Cowbridge that you won't find elsewhere.

Add to that the fact that the town has plenty of places where you can

take a break – cafes, pubs, bars and eating places galore – and there is no need for the day's shopping to be stressful.

You can even wander into the Physic Garden or Old Hall Gardens – where all is peaceful – or just carry on exploring all the nooks, crannies and alleyways of a town that was put together in a highly idiosyncratic style!

It's a town which doesn't stand still, and traders here have confidence that they can maintain the town's position in the shopping sector – and keep moving onwards and upwards.

The shopping area which is called 'Old Mason's Yard', has plans to expand, and has submitted plans that will give the centre a striking new frontage, should discussions with the council bear fruit.

New in the town for this Christmas season at the Old Mason's Yard is the 'Lemon Tree Nails & Beauty Cowbridge', where Jayne Gooding is looking forward to the party season.

She said: "We're ready to help people celebrate and get ready! Anything from a simple manicure, a classy gel polish or a beautiful set of acrylics. We do it all. Vouchers are also available."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 26)

by PHILIP IRWIN

The pencil case
COWBRIDGE

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Watch our Facebook and events Board for future events

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(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25)
At the Eastgate end of town, hair salon **Fich and Ramous** is geared up for Christmas, and this year the theme is 'affordable luxury'. Claire Prior-Collins said: "It's always fun when people are looking for something special. We've lots of ideas for 'party hair' and this year we have expanded our range of hair products that make an ideal Christmas gift. "We have also introduced a wrapping service."

In the town centre, **Jon Ian** is looking forward to its first Christmas in new premises. Esther Hitchcock said: "It's an Aladdin's Cave for Christmas gifts. "Also, the Jon Ian Salesroom, our old shop, has an amazing sale, with Christmas bargains available at up to 80 per cent discount."

In the alleyways and courtyards behind the Vale of Glamorgan pub is **The Beehive** gift

shop, run by Julie Jarvis. She is conscious of Cowbridge's reputation as a distinctive and quirky shopping area, and aims to add to that.

She said: "We have lots of lovely new products that will make great Christmas presents, and we have many bargains besides!"

Sally Stephenson runs **The Pencil Case** in Eastgate, and says that it is the place to go for unique Christmas gift ideas for the whole family.

She said: "With so many children to think about, Father Christmas often needs some help and inspiration! Pop into The Pencil Case, where the children can write a list of Christmas gift suggestions, then post their letters in our special Christmas post box and we will make sure Santa receives them."

"We also have a fantastic advent calendar containing 25 special Christmas edition Iwako

collectable erasers."

She added: "The Pencil Case is not just for younger children. We have a wide range of stylish notebooks, diaries, colour co-ordinated stationery and writing pens, which any teenager or young adult would be delighted to receive."

Also in Eastgate is **Colours**, run by Julie Jeans who, with Christmas in mind, is opening every Sunday until from Reindeer Parade Day, and every Thursday (until 7.30pm from December 1.

She said: "We have new lines in for the Christmas season in Lotus Footwear and Heavenly Feet, and in January we will have this year's Mother of the Bride (or groom) range, and there is always a great deal of interest in that."

Colours also have a special promotion day today (Thursday) featuring 20 per cent off clothes by the designer Frank Lyman – plus chocolates and prosecco.

An example of the wide choice of eating places in the town is **The Shampan** Indian restaurant, where the owner, AH Chowdhury, is happy to point diners in the direction of TripAdvisor, where good reviews galore are to be found.

This year, the restaurant is open on Christmas Day, and £22 will buy either an Indian or a traditional British dinner – which could well bring different generations of a family together!

Bar 44 in the High Street is also ready for



ABOVE: The beer garden at the Horse & Groom.

Christmas. Operations manager Natalie Isaac said: "Bar 44 is now open from 9.30 am Tuesday to Sunday for breakfast, hot drinks and churros (warm Spanish doughnuts, home-made, tossed in cinnamon sugar with chocolate sauce!)"

"You can now book for breakfast, lunch or dinner in Cowbridge via our website www.bar44.co.uk

"We also have a private function room called the Beronia Lounge, ideal for private parties and Christmas meals. Why not try our whole suckling pig for parties of eight or more to share, either as a private function or as a table in the restaurant. "For Christmas, we have a superb festive menu for lunch or dinner as well as mulled wine, cocktails and of course sherry! "Vouchers, hampers and retail food and drink are also available, and they are ideal as Christmas presents!"

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 28)



ABOVE: Great Indian food at the Shampan.



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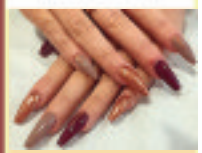


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VISIT COWBRIDGE THIS CHRISTMAS

A Magical Festive Experience

A FESTIVE WELCOME FROM THE MAYOR!

THE historic market town of Cowbridge attracts many visitors wishing to sample its unique atmosphere.

It is renowned throughout the region for its variety of shopping and eating opportunities, the vast majority of which are independently-owned and run.

But Cowbridge is more than shopping and eating. It is a thriving community with many organisations and voluntary groups, which enhance the town and its reputation beyond its boundaries.

Local groups have established annual events such as the Food and Drink Festival, the Christmas Reindeer Parade, and the Cowbridge Music Festival to name but a few.

These events bring literally thousands of visitors to the town and we hope that they will return.

In more traditional vein, the pageantry of the



civic parades and the Remembrance Day commemoration help bring together people of all ages and are a reminder of Cowbridge's special history, which stretches back over 800 years.

The town has many listed buildings. The town hall (incorporating the museum, housed in the former prison cells!), the old grammar school and the ancient St Quentin's Castle in Llanblethian. For peace and tranquility you can also visit the wonderful Physic Gardens.

Coun Elizabeth George
Mayor of Cowbridge with Llanblethian.

Personal service is the key



Meet the staff at Tailor-Made Travel.

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 26)

At Pebbles, just alongside the town hall, Alison Williams is ready for Christmas. She said: "We've had lots of deliveries from all of our gorgeous labels."

"Call in to see the key looks for the season, and the fabrics, shapes and patterns that are new for autumn/winter."

Alison also has a special promotion over the three days (Friday to Sunday) of the Reindeer Parade, with 10 per cent off!

Arthur John's in the High Street has always carried a huge range of stock – it's probably easier to list the items that aren't kept in stock – and owner Alun John has a warm welcome for visitors.

He said: "We have a full range of Barbour and Joules country clothing, and we stock leading brands for kitchen equipment and tools – all ideal

Christmas presents."

There was a time when travel agents would be waiting for the rush that followed all the Christmas holiday adverts on TV, but times have changed.

Tailor Made Travel opened in the town recently, and the business is built on responding to customers' needs throughout the year.

A family firm, they have been in business in Penarth for 20 years, and a new branch in Llantwit Major (in the New Year) will follow the Cowbridge opening.

Owner Simon Morgan said: "People are much more adventurous now and their interest in a country can be triggered by anything – a news story, perhaps."

"Therefore, we need to be flexible in making sure that they get what they need. We have special knowledge of the Cowbridge market, because our manager

here, Carolyn Reeves, has been in the travel business for over 30 years."

Pubs are important to the festive season and in Cowbridge, the **Horse and Groom** is a popular meeting place. You can get a great range of beers, lagers and cider there – but the pub also has a wide range of gins and vodkas, with a growing range of cocktails.

Jayne Wilkinson, of the Horse and Groom, said: "Prosecco cocktails are very popular at the moment."

"Also, we are putting on something special for the Reindeer parade day, with a hog roast in our beer garden. There will be mulled wine available, too."



ABOVE: The showroom at Norma Davies Opticians. BELOW: Fich+Ramous are ready for the party season.



Reindeer Parade welcomes the festive season in style!

COWBRIDGE'S Reindeer Parade has long set the standard for such events – and this year will be no exception.

On Sunday, November 27, the town will be buzzing from mid-morning on, as people prepare to greet the parade, which (as usual) will start at noon.

However, a good vantage point is important, so crowds tend to build up early to watch as Father Christmas and his elves travel through the town on a sleigh, pulled by his trusty reindeer.

The Reindeer Parade is organised and paid for, in the main, by the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade. The chamber's chairman, Alun John explained: "This is our annual 'thank you' to the people who come to Cowbridge to shop and visit local businesses."

"All of the collections that are taken on the day by the Lions Club will go to charities that are helped by the Lions."

He added: "We are hoping for good weather this year, last year was atrocious, so we are due a good day!"

Of course, the day doesn't end when the parade is over, there is plenty to do, right up until the switching on of the town's Christmas lights, which will be around 5.15pm.

There will be live music during the afternoon, and a craft market in the town, too, while young children will be able to see Santa in his grotto.

Santa's Grotto is run by the local Lions and a spokesman said: "As always, the Grotto will be hugely popular – so, to avoid long queues, access will be by ticket only."

"The tickets can be collected at the west entrance

to the town hall on a 'first come, first served' basis from 11am on the day.

"Each ticket will grant access to one family and Santa will be in his grotto between 1.30pm and 4pm."

"There will be no charge for the tickets, but if you enjoy the experience, a generous donation in support of the work of Lions would be much appreciated, using Gift Aid if possible."

Many shops will have special events or special offers, and the Christmas lights switch on at the town hall will be followed by fireworks from around 5.15 pm.

Local TV presenters, Lucy and Rhodri Owen from the BBC, and ITV's Ruth Wignall, will be switching on the lights – the end of a long day for them as they also take part in the Reindeer Parade.

In fact, Lucy Owen will also be doing at least one book signing – she has written a children's book to raise funds for the Noah's Ark Appeal for the Children's Hospital for Wales.

This will be at 1.30pm at the Cowbridge Bookshop, where she will be reading from the book, entitled *Boo-a-bog in the Park*.

A second book signing is also pencilled in, but details were not available as The GEM went to press.

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

An established Cowbridge tradition is that Holy Cross Church holds its Christmas Tree festival over the Reindeer Parade weekend.

The beautiful old church will be filled with decorated trees – the work of local organisations, schools and voluntary groups, and is always a sight to behold.

On a hectic day, when the town is busy with Christmas revellers, it will be a haven of peace and tranquillity.

FESTIVAL GALA CONCERT

Heralding this special weekend, will be the annual concert by Cowbridge Male Voice Choir, in Holy Cross Church on the evening of Friday, November 25, at 7.30pm.

During the day, the Christmas trees will have been made ready for the festival, and the concert represents a public 'unveiling'.

The choir, with musical director Shelley Thomas Brown and accompanist Sandra Williams, will be performing songs from their extensive repertoire, and will be joined by guest soloists, Elinor Parsons and Tom Hamilton.

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Students enjoy a 'higher' degree of education at CAVC

LOOKING to gain a university qualification without the cost of leaving home to study? Cardiff and Vale College (CAVC) has a growing range of higher education courses and you can apply to start a course in September.

CAVC will be showcasing the university courses the college runs at the higher education open evening at its City Centre Campus on Dumballs Road on Wednesday, November 30 from 4pm – 7pm.

The college offers a range of higher education courses in partnership with universities from across the country; from foundation degrees you can top up to a full degree by taking a third year in university, right up to postgraduate study with the PGCE teaching qualification.

The open evening will offer the chance for you to find out more about the college's university courses.

There will also be opportunities to chat to HE tutors, tour the campus and get a taste of what studying a university course at CAVC is like.

There are many reasons to study an HE course at CAVC. You could benefit from:

Gaining career-orientated skills and specific industry knowledge to boost your chances of finding your dream career.

The teaching and expertise of the college and its partner universities.

Access to both CAVC and university facilities.

Staying close to home while you study – save money with fewer travel

and accommodation costs.

A more convenient location to fit in with your work and family life.

Courses taught in small group sizes.

Gaining a 'stand-alone' qualification or having the option to continue your study to gain a full degree.

Being able to study full-time or part-time to fit in with work or other commitments.

Gaining a stand-alone qualification with the opportunity to 'top up' to a bachelor degree.

The college works alongside the University of Birmingham, Cardiff Met, Kingston University, the University of South Wales and University of West London to give people the opportunity to gain university-level qualifications in a range of subjects, many of which are unique to the region.

CAVC students are reportedly among the most satisfied in the country, with the college rated above the national average for teaching and learning. CAVC has 'inspirational' facilities and dedicated industry-standard training centres across Cardiff and the Vale, including its new £45m City Centre Campus with its specialist HE centre.

Since 2015, over 1,000 students progressed to university level study at the college.

Students can benefit from specialist lecturers who are fully engaged with their industries and the latest trends and developments.

Register for the HE open evening and beat the queues by visiting www.cavc.ac.uk/heopen.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AT ST MARY'S CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

ST MARY'S Church, Barry, is holding its fifth Christmas tree festival this year, and is looking for local community groups, individuals, local businesses, churches and schools to display a Christmas tree of their own design in the church during the festival.

A spokesman explained: "The trees will be judged, and the one thought to be the most original will be presented with a certificate, and notification of the winners will also be put in The GEM. There will be three categories: schools, local organisations and young person entries."

"The festival will begin on Wednesday, November 30 at 7pm with the switching-on of the Christmas tree lights and announcement of the winners followed by a musical evening, including items from a youth band and the children of the town."

"Light refreshments will be provided for a ticket price of £3. All children admitted free."

"The Christmas tree festival takes place from December 1 to December 3 and the



church will be open to visitors on the first and second between 10am – 4pm, and on December 3 from 10.30am to 12 noon. So come and look at the various trees on display!

"Many school choirs will be visiting us during this festival for us to listen to their wonderful voices, while we enjoy the beauty of the many trees."

"Programmes will be available that will enable all to understand the meanings of the many trees displayed. Entry to view the trees will be free to all and refreshments will be available."

"On Saturday, December 3 you can enjoy breakfast with Father Christmas among the beautiful trees; this takes place between 9am

and 10.15am. It will be a breakfast of fruit, cereals, toast and soft drinks; tickets will be £5 and every child will have a gift from Santa."

"The church will then be open between 10.30am and 12pm to view the trees."

"We look forward to hearing from all those who would like to display a tree, this festival is being put

together again this year for the people of Barry to take part in and to enjoy."

Entry forms will be available in all churches, and if you would like to display a tree or need further information contact Susan Borges on 01446 747928 or 07866 078665; or email borges888@btinternet.com.

REINVENTING THE CONSERVATORY ROOF REPLACEMENT & CONSERVATORY UPGRADE OPTIONS

As few as five years ago, polycarbonate would have been the main choice for a conservatory roof.

While letting plenty of light in, some found that their conservatories could be too bright and in summer, while cool in winter.

Building technology has moved on, and there are now two solid roofs that can convert a conservatory into a room with a more stable ambient temperature.

The first is a lightweight, 'tiled' roof that takes its design cues from the slates and tiles found on most UK houses.

Created using aluminium panels, with Kingspan insulation, these conservatory roofs can achieve a u value of just 0.18, similar to that of a normally constructed, modern roof.

With this roof option, the interior of the conservatory can include a plastered ceiling with down-lighters or even roof windows for ventilation and sky views.

For a more contemporary feel, the LivinRoof combines sleek lines and thermal efficiency to create something that looks very contemporary.

With the LivinRoof, entire panels can be glazed to create a hybrid solid and glass roof allowing you to choose where to have shaded areas and where to have more light.

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The Remembrance Sunday service – organised by the Royal British Legion – remembered all, including the ‘forgotten conflicts’ of Korea, Suez, Aden, Northern Ireland, the Falklands, the Gulf War, and those in the Balkans where members of HM Armed Forces fought and fell, or returned with scars, physical or mental, alongside those from more recent wars. None was forgotten.





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Marie Curie's hospice nurses nominated for caring awards

TWO Marie Curie Nurses based at the charity's Vale hospice in Penarth, have been recognised for their work with people living with a terminal illness, by being nominated in the 'Nurse Leadership' and 'Going the Extra Mile' categories at the charity's annual Peacock Awards.



Ceri Davies.



Tracy Tucker.

Ceri Davies, in-patient ward manager at the hospice, and Tracy Tucker, a senior healthcare assistant working in the hospice at home service who deliver care during the day and night in the community, will attend the awards at the British Museum, London on November 22.

A spokesman said: "The nationwide awards, now in their fourth year, give the organisation a unique opportunity to showcase the excellent care and innovation demonstrated by staff across the charity. It celebrates both teams and individuals who are nominated by their colleagues for consistently showing

commitment to delivering the best care to people living with terminal illness and support for their loved ones."

The awards are named after the Peacock Charitable Trust, a long-standing supporter of Marie Curie.

Ceri, who worked for Marie Curie for eight years before she took up a position in the NHS in palliative care, returning to the hospice about 12 months ago, said: "I love working with people who share my passion and a common goal of wanting to make the precious time that people with life limiting illness have left, as positive and comfortable as possible. "When I first heard

that I had been nominated I felt a bit embarrassed as I feel the achievements and progress we have made have been very much a team effort. I do feel proud as I look at how much our team has grown and the amazing care they deliver to patients and families every day which makes such a difference."

Tracy added: "In Cardiff I work as part of a team who deliver care during the day and night, depending on the patients' needs. We provide hands on nursing care to people at the end of their life who wish to remain at home and support the patient and family at a time when they most need us."

Porthkerry Park out to be best in Britain

PORKERRY Park has been shortlisted for a national award by Fields in Trust, which is searching for the UK's No 1 park.

It is competing as one of the top 14 parks in Wales and joins 213 other parks across the UK in a public vote to determine the winner. Votes can be cast at www.fieldsintrust.org/bestpark.

The winner will be revealed on November 30 at Lord's cricket ground, following the public vote.

Vale MP Alun Cairns commented: "Porthkerry Park is a jewel in the heart of the Vale of Glamorgan, I doubt any other space in the country could match its picturesque vistas. Where else do you have woods, fields, streams, a Victorian viaduct and the sea all in one view?"

"Porthkerry Park's nomination for this award serves as a recognition of the dedicated and passionate work that Vale of Glamorgan Council staff do to maintain the area. They ensure that the park is a joy to visit and would be very worthy winners of this award."



Alun Cairns at Porthkerry Park with Marco's in the Park café owner, Marco Zeraschi.

PACT meetings

CADOC – Meet your local officers at Waitrose, Palmerston Road, Barry, on Thursday, November 24 between 11am and 1pm.

GIBBONSDOWN – meet your local neighbourhood team at Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close, Barry every Monday between 10am and 12 noon.

LLANDOW/EWENNY coffee and chat will take place at the Star Inn, Treos, on Tuesday, November 29 at 11am.

Ward councillors' surgery
THE Labour Vale and Town Councillors for Buttrills, Castleland and Court Wards Bronwen Brooks, Pamela Drake, Jeff Evans, Chris Elmore, Les Sword, Karl Khunell and Stuart Egan will hold their monthly advice surgery on Saturday, November 19 from 10am – 11am in the small community room of Barry Library, King Square. No appointment necessary.



Villagers turn out to honour fallen in Llanmaes Remembrance Day service

A REMEMBRANCE Day service was held on November 13 at the ancient church of St Cattwg's, in the village of Llanmaes.

The well-attended service began at 10.45am with a hymn and prayers led by parish reader Sue Moll. The chairman of the Llanmaes Community Council, Coun Tim Fowler, was present with council members and people from the village.

Following the two minutes' silence, Coun Fowler placed a poppy wreath to

the Fallen on the memorial tablet.

Sue Moll read the names of villagers who had died in the First World War and pointed out that the memorial was unusual in that it also celebrated, by name, the 'providential return' of the other combatants.

The congregation then left the church to walk across the churchyard to the two war graves situated on the south side, where Sue Moll led prayers for two airmen who were killed on active service in 1942.

A wreath of remembrance was laid on

behalf of the community council and the village by the chairman, and this was followed by the placing of memorial crosses by members of the armed forces and the police.

A further cross was placed in memory of the 47,000 members of the Merchant Navy lost in the two world wars.

In the autumn sunshine, other members of the congregation were then invited to lay their own poppies on the graves in memory of all those who have died in the service of their country.

JR

CANTORION CREIGIAU ENTERTAINS TOWN U3A

THE monthly meeting of Cowbridge U3A usually involves an illustrated talk, but November's gathering featured excellent musical entertainment.

The visitors were Cantorion Creigiau, a mixed choir formed over 40 years ago, which has a repertoire of songs ranging in style from choral to West End shows, mainly in Welsh and English, but occasionally in other languages.

The 30-strong choir's first number was 'Chattanooga Choo Choo' from 1941, followed by songs such as 'I Dreamed a Dream' and 'Bring Him Home' (the latter two both from the musical *Les Misérables*).

Dylan Thomas was represented by the prayer of Rev Eli Jenkins (from *Under Milk Wood*) set to music, soon followed by the Jerome Kerr and Oscar Hammerstein number 'I Can't Help Lovin' Dat Man' from the 1927 musical *Showboat*.

'El Vito' was a solo in Spanish by Mair Roberts, a multi-talented professional soprano who has been the choir's musical director and conductor since its inception. The piece required Rob Lloyd, the accompanist, to make the piano sound like a Spanish guitar!

There was a break from the singing when

Eric Willis told the audience the story of Cinderella, this time set in the Valleys and in 'Wenglish', where Cinders doesn't get her man (Wayne, who has a NVQ Level II qualification in woodwork) because her feet have 'swollen up bad' after too much disco dancing. Not politically correct perhaps, but very funny.

The second half of the performance was mainly in Welsh, featuring a medley of songs such as 'Ar Hyd y Nos' ('All Through the Night'), 'Rhyfelgyrch Gwyr Harlech' ('Men of Harlech'), 'Llwyn Onn' (The Ash Grove) and a duet, 'Myfanwy', featuring Mair Roberts again.

The final two songs were the ever-popular 'Calon Lân', followed by the well known 'Cwm Rhondda'. The audience had been promised an hour of entertainment, but this proved not to be true – it was at least 75 minutes of superb performance.

Next meeting: entertainment by John Sheen, entitled 'Christmas Crackers' at 2pm on Wednesday, December 15 in Cowbridge Town Hall. Visitors welcome (there is a small fee, which includes refreshments). See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

SPM



Y Bont Faen pupils with Cowbridge firefighters.

Young firefighters help to extinguish blaze at Palace of Westminster!

COWBRIDGE firefighters visited year-1 pupils at Y Bont Faen Primary to talk about fire safety in the run-up to Bonfire Night.

They read the pupils a story and explained how they can keep themselves safe at this exciting, but potentially deadly time of year.

Pupils learnt their catchphrase 'Don't touch, tell.'

Year-2 pupils visited Cowbridge Fire Station and had a fantastic time.

Pupils took along their cardboard buildings of the Houses of Parliament and Big Ben – which date from 1870 – that they had made in school.

Firefighters set the 'buildings' alight and brought out their fire engine to put out the fire. Pupils all took a turn to use the hose and had lots of fun climbing into the fire engine – a very good time was had by all!

Pupils and staff at YBF wish to thank Cowbridge Fire Station for the experiences and memories they provided.

WICK ACCOUNTANT SCOOPS TOP AWARD

A BPP Professional Education student from Wick has been awarded a prestigious prize for the highest score in chartered accountancy exams.

Chris Russell-Jones (37) was honoured at the South Wales ICAEW Society's annual dinner awards ceremony, following outstanding third year results.

Having achieved 82 per cent in case study, 71 per cent in strategic business management and 83 per cent for corporate reporting in his June 2016 exams, he won the Howard Jones Prize, awarded to the south Wales-based



Chris Russell.

student with the highest score in their advanced level examinations over 12 months.

"My family were delighted for me. "My wife and I went out to celebrate when I'd received confirmation about the award – she's been through the pressure with me every step of

the way so deserved to celebrate just as much as I did."

An ACA student at BPP Professional Education's site in Birmingham, he took the Fueller's Prize for his Master's dissertation in 2005, which analysed Ken Livingston's London 'renewables policy'.

RNLI volunteer Aileen collects MBE at Palace



Aileen proudly shows off her MBE.



Steve, Aileen, Frances and Dan at the Palace.

QUEEN'S Birthday Honours recipient Aileen Jones, a volunteer at Porthcawl RNLI Lifeboat station, was presented with her MBE this week by Prince William at Buckingham Palace.

Aileen, who has been a volunteer at Porthcawl since 1995, was accompanied to the Palace by husband Steve, daughter Frances, and son Dan, who have also been volunteers for the RNLI at Porthcawl.

Both Aileen and Steve are retired helms and now hold the office of Deputy Launch Authority.

Daughter Frances was a crew member until university took her

away from the town. Dan is currently a crew member.

"It was a complete surprise and honour when I was awarded the MBE for service to the RNLI," said Aileen.

"To have my family with me at Buckingham Palace made it really special day for me.

"Being a RNLI volunteer has been a huge part of our family life, both children from their younger years, were familiar with lifeboat crew and the commitment of volunteers.

"Steve and I were so proud that both Frances and Dan joined the crew as soon as they were old enough."

Lifeboat Operations Manager at Porthcawl, Philip Missen, said: "We are all proud of Aileen, who

has been a stalwart at our lifeboat station. She was one of our first female crew members and then qualified as one of the first RNLI female helms.

"During a rescue of two casualties on a commercial fishing boat in difficulty out in the Bristol Channel, Aileen demonstrated her seamanship and courage as helmsman.

"She was recognised for these skills and became the RNLI's first female crew member in the history of the charity to receive a Bronze Medal for gallantry.

"Her award of the MBE is recognition of the commitment Aileen has shown to the RNLI, and to our lifeboat station here in Porthcawl," he added.

CADETS SHOW WHAT THE POPPY MEANS TO THEM



ABOVE: Cadet Corporal Llewellyn and fellow prizewinning cadets. Photo by Flt Sgt Peckham (ATC).

SAINSBURY'S supermarket in Bridgend, in conjunction with the Royal British Legion, held a competition open to RAF Air Cadets in Bridgend county borough called 'What does the Poppy mean to me?'

Cadet Corporal Huw Llewellyn from 2117 (Kenfig Hill) Squadron, won first prize, with two cadets from 2318 (Aberkenfig) Squadron placed second and third.

There were many superb

entries on display in the windows behind the checkouts. (You may have seen them over the last two weeks).

The three winners each received a Sainsbury's gift voucher.

Flight Sergeant (ATC) Peckham would like to congratulate everybody who entered as the quality was superb. He would also like to thank Flight Lieutenant Amanda Evans, for inviting the squadron to take part and also for collecting our entries.

LINDSAY THOMAS
CWC Secretary

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS

Ogmore Valley male voice choir

THIS choir is heavily involved with the local community, it owns a rehearsal and concert hall which was built in 1874, the Canolfan Bethlehem.

It is busy rehearsing for concerts it will be performing in December to raise funds for several charities, while on Sundays it is preparing songs to add to a CD, on sale for Christmas.

The choir rehearses on Thursday evenings and always welcomes new members and guests. For more information, telephone secretary John Jones on 01656 841429

Laleston WI

THE November meeting was taken by president Dawn Storie, who welcomed everyone including three visitors.

All the members were looking forward to the Christmas lunch at The Atlantic Hotel, Porthcawl on December 6.

Details of future events, such as a Glamorgan Federation WI lunch in aid of the Denman Appeal at the Aberavon Beach Hotel and a Federation Fashion show at The Nolton House Hotel, were given.

A ballot was held and two bursaries, for courses at Denman College, were awarded. The lucky winners are Jane Lewis and Margaret Williams.

Congratulations ladies! Thanks to the speaker, Donald Llewellyn, for stepping in at the last minute and entertaining the members with slides and stories of his 'Life behind the Camera'.

Gwyneth Jenkins gave the vote of thanks.

The raffle was won by Rosemary Dwyer and the competition by Barbara Rees.

The Book Club, at Bridgend Library, will take place on December 15.

The next meeting will be held on December 1 at 7.15pm in Blandy Hall (Laleston Gardening Club). It is Christmas party time and the competition will be a 'Christmas adornment'. New members are always welcome, why not come and join us. For further information call Diane on 01656 656600.

Bois Goetre-Hen Male Choir

THE choir is performing in a charity concert to help raise funds for Prostate Cancer UK. It is being held at St John the Divine parish church, Aberkenfig on Friday, November 25 at 7pm. There is also a

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM: If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me. I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

CLIVE MITCHELL

1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
Tel: 01656 725399 • E-Mail: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk



guest choir, Meibion Goronwy from Benllech on the Isle of Anglesey.

Tickets are £5 from secretary Richard Howells e-mail boisgoetrehen@gmail.com or telephone 01656 737923.

Mynydd Cynffig WI

TUESDAY, November 8 found the members in the Talbot Centre, Kenfig Hill at 2.30pm for the November meeting, with a good turnout of members. Marjorie Goode and Enid Rymer, respectively president and secretary, explained items of WI business to the members.

Then details for the forthcoming Christmas party were finalised. Enid will organise 'Pass the Parcel', which always has the members in stitches; Maureen has arranged for Bill Bennett to entertain us during the party which is a first time for the WI and should be very interesting. The members are all looking forward to a great afternoon.

The walking club went on November 7 to Margam Park for an interesting walk, truly enjoyed by the walkers.

The Christmas tree festival is arranged and it is hoped the members will attend at Margam Park, as it will be a good day with lots to see and enjoy.

The talk this month was by John Hanson and his associate, on the topic 'Tools for Africa'. The subject was very interesting. There is a local branch in Porthcawl staffed by volunteers, they will take all and everything you don't want in your garden shed; refurbish and repair old tools, send them to their headquarters in Southampton, to be shipped to Africa. The tools are for self-reliance not charity. Next month is the Christmas party. Can't wait to celebrate.

Wesley Methodist Church, Tondy

ON Saturday, December 3, there is a Christmas tree festival and bazaar from 10am to 3pm.

On December 4, there will be an all age Nativity and parade service at 10.30am.

On December 7, there will be a carol service

with the choir from Tondy primary school leading the singing, the service is at 6pm.

Tondy primary school

FRIDAY, November 18 is Children In Need Day, and the school is inviting the children to wear their pyjamas. They are asked to bring £1 for the non-uniform day, also if possible could they bring it in loose change to cover Pudsey in coins.

The school is asking for help to raise as much money as possible for the charity. Thanking parents and carers for their support.

The Parents' and Teachers' Association is organising a disco for pupils of the school on Thursday, November 24 from 5.30pm - 7pm, at Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen. It is asking everyone to use the entrance down the steps/ramp from the car park as the front entrance will not be open. There will be an entrance fee of £1. Parents of children in nursery and reception must accompany their children.

The school will have tickets for the different Christmas concerts at the school available from November 23.

Y Bont

Y BONT children's charity will hold a Christmas festival at Bryngarw Country Park from 4pm to 8pm on December 2 and from 10am to 4pm on December 3. Everyone will be treated to a festive atmosphere with lots of stalls and music provided by choirs.

Cor Merched Cwm Llynfi, (Llynfi Valley Ladies' Choir)

THE choir is performing in a concert in the Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Patrick, Monica Street, Maesteg, on Friday 25th November 2017 at 7pm. Tickets £6 are available from the church, choir members or by telephone on 01656 742703.

It will be a ladies' night as the guest soloist will be Sally-Anne Kingsbury! Please support this concert as all proceeds will go to the church restoration fund.

If you are interested in joining the choir, this

concert would be the perfect opportunity to hear the ladies sing.

The choir rehearses in the Catholic Church every Wednesday from 7pm to 9pm.

Tynyrheol Primary School

J BLACKMAN, the headteacher, gives thanks for the continued support provided to the school from parents, friends and governors. The school disco on October 21 raised £69.60 and the bonfire night organised by the PTFA raised £280.50.

She also wants to thank everyone for their generous donations for the Royal British Legion. Pupils have been wearing their poppies and their poppy bands with pride. She will let everyone know how much the school raised, when it has all been calculated.

The next cross country event (for years 3-6) is at Pencoed Comprehensive school on Saturday November 26. She advises parents that parking may be problematic due to another event being held there on the same date.

Please arrive by 9.45am, races start at 10am and should finish by 10.45am.

The PTFA still has seats available on the coach Christmas shopping trip to Bristol city centre, on Saturday, November 19. The bus will be leaving Blaengarw at 8am and picking up (and dropping off) at various stops. The bus will leave Bristol at 5pm. Tickets are £15 and that includes entry into the raffle.

For tickets, contact Mrs Street, (01656 815820) a member of the PTFA or Miss Crowle or Ms Blackman, at the school.

Age Connects Morgannwg

THIS will host a fundraising evening of musical entertainment by Maesteg male choir Cór Meibion Maesteg a'r Cylch on Friday, November 25 from 6.30pm to 10pm at Pencoed Miners' Welfare Hall (CF35 5PE).

Tickets, £5, can be purchased from Age Connects Morgannwg via information@acmorgannwg.org.uk or call 01443 490650. Admission by ticket only.

For the latest
stories and
breaking news...
**glamorgan-
gem.co.uk**

CAOS' MUSICAL TRIP AROUND UK



Members of CAOS Musical Society on stage in Fairwater.

On November 8, CAOS Musical Society were the guests of Cardiff Light Music Club at The Fairwater Conservative Club.

The theme was 'Songs From Around Britain' and the programme included many old favourites such as, 'Cwm Rhondda', 'The Londonderry Air', 'The Lewis Bridal Song', and a medley of songs all associated with London.

The first half of the concert was a solo performance by Tony Hill, who played guitar and sang a selection of well-known,

sing-along songs. His performance was very well received and warmed the audience up nicely for the choir in the second half.

The musical director and conductor for the evening, Diane Normansell, who shared the piano playing duties with Christopher Fossey. Mrs Normansell recently damaged her hand in an unfortunate accident, but she managed to play the accompaniment to a medley of songs with her usual skill and dexterity.

As always, Chris Banks played the role of master of ceremonies for the evening,

filling the gaps between the songs with his usual mix of informative but witty remarks and anecdotes.

CAOS Musical Society is a mixed ability choir with some talented and experienced singers, as well as a few absolute beginners included in their numbers. The choir rehearses every Wednesday in the St Athan Community Centre at 7.30pm.

They are always on the lookout for new singers and if you would like to come along and join them, one evening, you are assured of a very warm welcome.

Three from the area in running for Wales Sport Awards 2016

FIFTEEN people involved in grassroots sport in Wales – including three from Bridgend or the Vale – have been selected to contest the Wales Sport Awards 2016.

They were shortlisted after being nominated for their contributions to community sport, following a nationwide search.

The winners will be revealed at the Wales Sport Awards ceremony at Hoddinott Hall in Cardiff Bay on December 5, organised jointly by BBC Wales and Sport Wales.

The five community awards celebrate the essential and often unseen work of volunteers and coaches that keeps sport thriving

in every corner of Wales.

Those in contention from the area are: Megan Curling, involved in gymnastics in Bridgend for Young Volunteer of the Year; Jamie Evans, again from Bridgend and taking part in gymnastics, up for the Young Coach award; and, in the Coach to Disabled People category, Emily Griffiths for swimming in the Vale.

Dr Paul Thomas, chair of Sport Wales commented: "The importance of these volunteers and coaches can't be overestimated. They are the heartbeat of sport in Wales and they deserve our thanks and recognition for the work do in getting people hooked on sport. "It is such a hard task picking out finalists and winners for the awards but their stories will be an inspiration and motivation for others."

BRIDGE RESULTS

RESULTS for the Vale of Glamorgan Children in Need simultaneous pairs competition held on November 14:

1st Helen Houston & Mike Pownell 67.17%, 2nd Liam Sheridan & Glenda Roberts 67.13%, 3rd Tony Ratcliffe & Trish Tracey 63.19%.

Many thanks to all who contributed - we raised £215 for Children in Need!

LE

Artist Linda wins shield – AGAIN!

THE chairman of BARUC Art Group, John Thomas, hands over the Baruc Art Group Shield to a delighted Linda Johns for the second year running.

Her painting, 'Glimpses of St Pauls,' was voted the best work in the BARUC annual art exhibition held in October, with Jan Parsons' work 'Gone Fishing,' voted a close second.

The chairman praised the incredibly high standard of works on display at the exhibition, and his gratitude for the public's enthusiastic support.

BARUC Art Group meets on Fridays from 9am-12 noon at All Saints Church Hall, Barry.



Wolves in thriller

DINAS POWYS Wolves were caught sleeping in the latter stages of this thrilling encounter against Sully.

After falling 1-0 behind when the visiting Keeper Dylan Morris let a shot from a freekick slip through his hands the reply from the Villagers was instant.

After a flowing move involving a number of players saw Robson Mallam finished off with a fine goal.

Kyle Booker then went on a customary run beating a number of players with ease to put the Wolves in the lead.

Unselfish running and movement from Callum Hewitson was creating the space which allowed the Wolves to play their attacking style of football.

Rian Thomas rifled home the third after Hewitson found him in space.

Robson Mallam, in a rich scoring vein, added his second to give the visitors a fully-deserved 4-1 lead.

The second half was a very stop start affair with the visitors conceding numerous stupid and petulant free kicks.

Sully capitalised on this and made much more of a game of it in the second half.

Thomas and Booker put the game to bed however, as the home side looked like making a full comeback.

Dinas would like to wish the Sully defender a speedy recovery as he came off worse for wear in a fair challenge from a Wolves forward.

Final score Sully 5, Dinas Wolves 6. LS

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL • CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990

Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2016/01261/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Extension of existing Grade II listed two-storey house located within the Llantwit Major Conservation Area. The alterations comprise new roof lights and French doors to existing north rear wing and replacement of existing lean-to east extension with a larger gable roofed extension.

Location/Lleoliad: Old Place, Castle Street, Llantwit Major
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth: Llantwit Major

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2016/01267/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Proposed development of the site for 2 new build, detached houses

Location/Lleoliad: Plot at Station Terrace, East Aberthaw
Conservation Area/ Ardal Gadwraeth: East Aberthaw

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2016/00607/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: The proposals are to build a small extension to house a utility room and accessible WC. Access to the chapel will be improved with a new wheelchair accessible ramp and a raised path formed outside the chapel on MOD land

Location/Lleoliad: Bethesda Fro URC, Boverton Road, North Gate, Boverton, (RAF St. Athan)

Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2016/01258/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Replace floor in northern portion of main barn
Location/Lleoliad: Cobbles Kitchen and Deli, Ty Maen Barns, Ogmere by Sea

Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2016/01276/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: The conversion of a redundant and derelict barn into a single detached residential dwelling, and the erection of the original cow shed structure to the South West perimeter of the site

Location/Lleoliad: West Aberthaw Farm, West Aberthaw
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2016/01298/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Conversion and refurbishment of existing detached outbuilding/store to provide garden office/occasional guest bedroom facilities ancillary to existing farmhouse

Location/Lleoliad: Caer Wigau Uchaf Farm, Pendoylan Road, Pendoylan

Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2016/01323/LBC
Proposal/Cynnig: Extension of existing Grade II listed two-storey house located within the Llantwit Major Conservation Area. The alterations comprise new roof lights and French doors to existing north rear wing and replacement of existing lean-to east extension with a larger gable roofed extension.

Location/Lleoliad: Old Place, Castle Street, Llantwit Major
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2016/01261/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Extension of existing Grade II listed two-storey house located within the Llantwit Major Conservation Area. The alterations comprise new roof lights and French doors to existing north rear wing and replacement of existing lean-to east extension with a larger gable roofed extension.

Location/Lleoliad: Old Place, Castle Street, Llantwit Major
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting Old Place, Castle Street, Llantwit Major, Grade II

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2016/01278/FUL
Proposal/Cynnig: Rear extension
Location/Lleoliad: Pound Cottage, 2, Penlan Road, Llandough, Penarth
Listed Building/ Adeilad Rhestredig: Affecting Pound Cottage, 2, Penlan Road, Llandough, Grade II

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No./ Rhif y cais: 2016/01290/RES
Proposal/Cynnig: Development of the site known as Arno Quay for residential development and associated infrastructure works, parking, and landscape

Location/Lleoliad: Arno Quay, Barry Waterfront, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via <http://vonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy <http://vonline.planning-register.co.uk/>

Dated / Dyddiedig: 17 November, 2016

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT



Penarth Hockey Club news round-up

PENARTH Hockey Club continues to push for promotion on three fronts in the GoCrea8 League despite only one of its teams winning on a weekend where the first and third XIs faced top of the table clashes.

After three successive weekends on South Wales 'soil', the first XI were back on their travels for the seventh game of the Conference North campaign, heading to the University of the West of England in Bristol for a showdown with the students.

Having won their previous three matches, the Bears were in confident mood, but travelled without talisman Ben Croxall for the first time as they took on a UWE side that had played one tier higher - in the Championship division - just last year.

That pedigree showed as the home side proved capable of moving the ball well early on but, despite several forays into the Penarth 'D', they failed to break the deadlock, and it was Penarth who actually came the closest to doing so.

The visitors really established control in the final 15 minutes of the half, transferring the ball across the back before finding their way into the final third of the pitch with ease. However, although they earned a number of penalty corners, Penarth also failed to grab a goal and went into the break at 0-0.

The second half started just as the first had ended, with Penarth in control and winning numerous penalty corners. The breakthrough eventually came after 50 minutes, with Laith El-Khatib flicking the ball under the UWE 'keeper to put the visitors a goal up, but, despite maintaining possession thereafter, they couldn't add a second, allowing the students to remain in the game.

After earning a string of penalty corners of their own, the University side eventually evened the scoreline with a well-controlled flick of into the bottom corner, and went into the final part of the game with the greater momentum.

Under pressure, Penarth also found themselves on the wrong end of a number of questionable umpiring decisions in the final ten minutes, and were dealt a heavy blow when defender Tom Haran was sidelined for the remainder of the game after a bad challenge.

To make matters worse, UWE took the lead from the resulting penalty corner and Penarth, despite generating pressure with only 10 men, simply couldn't find a way back in the final stages, falling

for the first time this season, 2-1, but remaining second in the division heading into a tough run of games against top six opposition.

PENARTH A 6, CARDIFF MEDICS A 0

The second XI's season has taken an upturn in recent weeks and Sam Chick's side looked to make it three wins on the bounce as they hosted their Cardiff Medics counterparts at Stanwell School on Saturday.

The home team started well and, after a handful of thwarted efforts, finally took the lead midway through the first half, as a well-placed aerial ball caught the Medics' defence napping, allowing Phil Lane to drive into the 'D' and slot home past the hapless 'keeper.

The lead was doubled soon after, with Lane again making the difference as he powered home to add to Penarth's advantage, but the tempo dropped off towards the end of the half, allowing the Medics to come back into the game, although the few chances they created were met with some resolute defending that prevented them from troubling goalkeeper Simon Comfort.

Despite being ahead at half-time, Penarth knew 2-0 was still a vulnerable scoreline, with the next goal likely to be crucial in determining the outcome. With their effort refired by the interval, and concentrated by an injury to influential midfielder Mark Thomas, it was the home side who grabbed the score, man-of-the-match Sam Salisbury drove superbly to smash a ball to the back post for Steve Davies to add the finishing touch.

Like Lane before him, Davies quickly doubled his tally, this time slapping home a scuffed Chick shot after good work from Dave Stevens, driving forward from right back.

With the Medics fading between sporadic attacks, Penarth made it five after a perfectly-weighted through ball from Lane saw Chick's shot well saved by the keeper, only to fall for Christian Holzbaur to calmly claim his first goal for the Bears.

The scoring was rounded off by Chris McCarthy, following good build-up play by Jamie Davison, and the 6-0 scoreline helps Penarth climb to third in the De Cymru 1 table with four games remaining before the Christmas break.

PENARTH B 1, SWANSEA UNIVERSITY C 5
Top of the table Swansea University visited Stanwell to take on a Penarth third XI buoyed by the previous week's crushing victory over

Swansea City.

Knowing that the winners would be De Cymru 3 leaders at the end of the day added a little extra frisson to the occasion, but it was student side that started quicker and, within a couple of minutes, were 1-0 up after a well-worked goal.

Two further goals - one a contentious penalty flick - gave the visitors a comfortable lead by midway through the half, but Penarth gradually managed to find their feet and, despite losing James Davies to a dead leg, the Bears started to build some attacks of their own through Richard Cousins and Mark Robinson in midfield.

After going close through a couple of penalty corners struck by Nathan Townsend - one of which seemed to be stopped by a Swansea leg on the goal-line - a drive into the 'D' by skipper Dave Watkins resulted in his cross being diverted into the net by a Swansea stick, making it 3-1 at the break.

The second half proved to be much better for Penarth, as the defence of Simon Wilkinson and Matt Birch stopped the Swansea attacks with relative ease and provided the foundation for numerous quick breaks that should have resulted in a goal or two for the home side.

That could have swung the game in Penarth's favour, but they were made to pay for their wastefulness as they appeared to tire in the final five minutes, defensive errors twice gifting goals to a

University side who would be the first to admit that the eventual 5-1 scoreline did not reflect the game as a whole.

Three of the four Penarth sides will be in action this weekend, with the thirds taking their turn to have a Saturday off.

The first XI will hope to bounce back as they open a run of hugely important fixtures by taking on Bristol University at Stanwell School (1.45pm start). The seconds head to Swansea hoping to make it four in a row and keep the pressure on the top two in division, while the fourth XI provide the warm-up for the senior side by hosting Gwent at Stanwell (12 noon start).

Penarth Hockey Club will be holding a quiz night - featuring Paul Thomas' famous curry - on Friday, November 25, starting 7.30pm at Penarth Athletic Club.

Penarth Hockey Club always welcomes new, old and returning players, umpires, supporters, friends and helpers regardless of age and ability. Training takes place on Wednesdays at Stanwell School, with the juniors on the pitch between 6.15pm and 7.15pm and the seniors between 7pm and 8.15pm.

Anyone interested in joining the club at senior or youth level can contact club secretary Dave Stevens (d_stevens81@hotmail.co.uk) for further information.

CL

NO RUGBY... but there's no rest for Sully View RFC!

THE autumn internationals may be good for international rugby, but this period places grassroots rugby under pressure.

Sully View RFC has not had a fixture for three weeks, and it will be another three weeks before its next game. This does not encourage players to train twice a week, and harms the social camaraderie aspects of the club.

Efforts to keep everyone

involved, include the recently successful 'Halloween night' and further events planned at the club on Saturday, December 17 and on New Year's Eve.

The next event is the reunion night on Friday, November 25, starting at 7.30pm in the Market Street Club.

All players/members are most welcome, with a special invitation going out to all the current players who have now settled into the newly reformed club.

As the last two reunions have

been successful in raising money for charity, it has been decided that all reunions will include charity fundraising, and so those attending will be asked to contribute £5 to cover food, raffle and a donation to charity.

These get-togethers are proving most successful, as old friendships are revived, stories, and memories, of the past exchanged, and topped off with a good old fashioned rugby sing-a-long.

MJS

Putting your property 'OUT IN FRONT'

PROPERTIES REQUIRED for Waiting Buyers

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ST ATHAN £195,000 Glyndwr Avenue CF62 4PP SEMI DETACHED, FOUR BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, EN-SUITE, PRIVATE DRIVEWAY, VIEWING RECOMMENDED	COWBRIDGE £275,000 Stradling Close CF71 7BX THREE BEDROOM DORMA BUNGALOW, CORNER PLOT LOCATION, GARAGE, VIEWING IS RECOMMENDED	LLANTWIT MAJOR £291,500 Grange Gardens CF61 2XB FIVE BEDROOMS, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, SOUTH FACING GARDEN, INTEGRAL GARAGE, VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED	LLANTWIT MAJOR £310,000 Llys Steffan CF61 2UF FOUR BEDROOMS, TWO EN-SUITE, CONSERVATORY, GARAGE, VIEWING IS HIGHLY RECOMMENDED	LLANTWIT MAJOR £342,500 Waun Gron CF61 2SF FREEHOLD, FOUR BEDROOMS, EN-SUITE, CONSERVATORY	LLANTWIT MAJOR £385,000 Boverton Road CF61 1YA DETACHED PROPERTY, FOUR BEDROOMS, PRIVATE GARDEN, GARAGE

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Attention Landlords!

You need to comply with the law by November 23

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THE DEADLINE FOR LICENSING AND REGISTRATION FOR LANDLORDS IN WALES WILL NOT BE EXTENDED AND ENFORCEMENT WILL BE TAKEN AGAINST THOSE WHO DON'T COMPLY, OFFICIALS HAVE WARNED.

From November 23 all landlords must be registered and FREE ADVICE is available from Dawn Oldfield, an ARLA Qualified Manager at Chris Davies Estate Agents on 01446 791967 (Out of hours 07876 747444 or email; dawn@chrisdavieslettings.co.uk)



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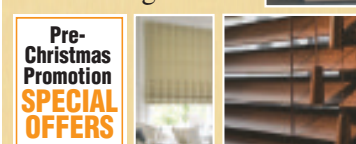
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Family Notices

POWELL

Derek

Suddenly on November 9 at the University Hospital of Wales, Derek, a well known and respected character within Barry and Cardiff. Deceased husband to Alma, much loved dad of Deborah and Nigel. Cherished DER of Victoria, Joe, Henry, Imogen and his great grandson Ray. He will be greatly missed by all who knew and loved him.

Derek is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Merthyr Dyfan Cemetery Chapel, Barry on Thursday, November 24 at 11am, followed by interment. Family floral tributes only please. Donations if desired may be made at the service or via Derek's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk, where you are also welcome to leave your memories and personal messages of sympathy.

All donations received will support the work of Dementia UK. Funeral arrangements entrusted to Lyndsay Ellis 01446 407962.

PRICE

Bronwen Margaret

Peacefully on November 7th at Llandough Hospital after a short illness, formerly of Tynewydd Road Barry.

Resting at Park Independent Funeral Directors until her service at the Cardiff & Vale Crematorium, Barry on November 28th at 2pm.

Family flowers only. Donations in lieu of flowers to the British Heart Foundation if desired.

COLLINS

James Francis David (Jim)

Peacefully on November 7, James, loving husband of Marcela, much loved by all that knew him.

Funeral service at St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major on Tuesday, November 22 at 2pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only, donations in lieu of flowers can be made payable to Llantwit Major Church and forwarded to The Parish Office, St Illtud's Church, Llantwit Major, CF61 1SB.

EDWARDS

Gwynne

Peacefully on November 10, at his home in Llantwit Major, Gwynne, beloved husband of Gina, dearly loved father of Geoffrey and father-in-law of Janet. Loving grandfather of James and Sarah.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonnmon. Funeral Thursday, November 24, service and cremation 1.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. No flowers by request, donations in lieu, if desired, to Marie Curie Cancer Care, c/o J James, 11 Fonnmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

EVANS

David Colin

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital, Dave, aged 77 years, beloved partner of Liz. Much loved dad of Lee, Jan and Tracey, and loved father-in-law of Gail, Adam and Dave. Cherished grandad of Emma, Kate, Molly, Rhian, Tom and Josh and loved brother of Janet and John.

Dave will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son until the funeral service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium on Thursday, November 24 at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Diabetes UK c/o the funeral director. Black attire optional.

HEATHFIELD

Brian Ernest

With great sadness, and after a short illness, at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on November 9, Brian, aged 76, well known for his support and commitment to Barry Athletic Football Club.

Dearly beloved husband to Brenda, much loved dad of Adele and Adrian, a loved and respected father-in-law to Deanna and Rob. Loved and adored bampi of Olivia, Charlotte, Aron and Joseph. Also, special brother of Sylvia, Barbara, Jimmy, Stephen and the late June.

Brian is in the care of Lyndsay Ellis at The Vale Funeral Service, Barry until a celebration of his life at All Saints Church, Park Road, Barry, CF62 6QW on Wednesday, November 23 at 1.30pm, followed by burial at Barry Cemetery, CF62 9TJ.

No floral tributes requested by the family, donations in lieu can be made at the service or via Brian's online tribute page at www.valefuneralservice.co.uk where you are also welcome to leave your memories and personal messages.

All donations in aid of the 'Brian Heathfield Memorial Fund' to support much needed repairs and improvements to Barry Athletic Football Club to which he dedicated much time.

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MORGAN

Margaret Irene

Sadly in the Princess of Wales Hospital, Irene of Llantwit Major, wife of the late Arthur and dearly loved mother of Anthony.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service on Monday 21st November 2016 at 2.45pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Donations may be made to Tenovus c/o the funeral home.

WEBSTER

Colin Victor

Peacefully on November 10 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Colin of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved husband of Etta.

He will be sadly missed by family and friends and all who remembered him in Websters D.I.Y.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the funeral service in St. Illtud's Church on Tuesday, November 22 at 9.45am, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium at 11am. Family flowers only but donations may be made to Parkinsons Disease Society c/o the Funeral Home.

WILTON

Doris Muriel

(Aged 95 years)

Peacefully on November 11 at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Doris, much loved wife of the late Robert. Loving mother of Kay, Richard and David, adored grandmother and great grandmother.

She will be sadly missed by all family and friends.

Funeral service at St Hilary Church on Wednesday, November 23 at 1pm, followed by cremation at Coychurch Crematorium. No flowers by request, donations, if desired, to Cancer Research Wales, Velindre Hospital, Whitchurch, Cardiff, CF14 2TL.

WILSON

David Lynch

On November 8 at UHW Cardiff, after a long illness, David (Daio) of Wenvoe, much loved brother and uncle.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W James & Sons, Fonnmon. Funeral Wednesday, November 23, service and cremation 12 noon at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Family flowers only may be sent to the funeral home, donations in lieu, if desired, to Velindre Cancer Care c/o Mrs. C. J. James, 11 Fonnmon Road, Rhoose, Vale of Glamorgan, CF62 3DZ.

HOPKINS

Kenneth 'Mel'

Peacefully at University Hospital Wales on October 20, Mel, aged 78 years. Sadly missed by his friend Rose, all those at Orchard House Residential Home and his friends on Barry Island.

Resting at Michael G Ryan Son & Daughters until the funeral on Wednesday, November 23 at Barry Cemetery at 10.30am.

Flowers to Michael G Ryan Son & Daughters by midday on Tuesday, 22 November.

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In Memory

WORSWICK

Natalie Anne

1980 - 2014

You left us broken hearted,
Not knowing what to do.
But now we find such comfort,
In our memories of you.

You brought joy and beauty,
From the moment of your birth,
Now in heaven you are an angel,
Just as you were on earth.

In memory of a loving daughter, sister and mum.
Loved and missed everyday.
From Mum, Dad, Andrew, Ceri,
Courtney and family.

Acknowledgements

CAUNT
Edward (Ted)

The family of Ted, husband of the late Jean, thank everyone who attended Ted's funeral. Special thanks to Orchard House for their excellent care, Pastor Matt and friends at Bethel Baptist Chapel and W. James and Sons Funeral Directors.

OLDING
Trefor

Chris, Gary and Nicola wish to thank everyone who attended Trefor's funeral, expressed messages of sympathy and who gave donations to Cancer Research Cymru. Thanks also to Father Ben Andrews for officiating and to A.G. Adams & Son, Funeral Directors.

Situations Vacant

Eryl Surgery, Llantwit Major

currently has a vacancy for a
Medical Receptionist

Please see our website for details about
the vacancy and how to apply.
Erylgrouppractice.co.uk

Personal Assistant Wanted

There are 5 hours of work available.

A disabled lady living in Llantwit Major is looking to employ a personal assistant to assist and support with domestic duties around my home and in the community. She also requires support with shopping, meetings and social events so car owner/driver essential.

Rate of pay is £8.25 per hour.

Telephone: 01443 827930 or
e-mail recruitment@dwiscil.org.uk.
Quote Ref: VOG009. Successful applicants are
required to provide an enhanced disclosure,
expense to be met by employer.

Charity No 1098229



Arts Project Officer (Maternity Cover)

We are looking for someone to cover maternity leave to start 3rd January 2017; the post is a one year contract.

The successful applicant will be responsible for planning and administering a programme of in-house workshops and classes at Carnegie House Arts Centre and will also support the Town Clerk and other members of staff by providing key administrative services to the organisation.

The post is for **25 hours per week from 9am - 2pm**, Monday to Friday, at **£11.55 per hour** and will be based in the Council Office at Carnegie House. Please send a letter of application, along with a C.V. and two references, to the address below.

The closing date for all applications is
2pm on Wednesday, 30th November 2016.

A full job description is available from the address below.

The Town Clerk, Bridgend Town Council, Carnegie
House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend, CF31 1EF

Tel: 01656 815757

Website: www.bridgendtowncouncil.gov.ukE-mail: bridgend.tc@bridgend.gov.uk

Birthdays

Bethan James
Happy 4th Birthday!
18th November



to our
special
little girl

Love you lots
like jelly tots
Mummy, Daddy,
Nannyness, Grampy
& Frankie dog
xxxxx

Happy 70th Birthday

GRAMPY

on 17th November



'Probably
THE BEST
fisherman in
the family!'

lots of love
all the family
xxx

Happy 1st Birthday
Elexis Christine Mary Gray
on 17th November



Love Mummy,
Daddy, Mckenzie
& Sienna and
family xxxxx

Anniversary

Dorothy & Fred Curtis

Congratulations Mum & Dad
on yourGolden Wedding
Anniversary!

19th November

Lots of love & best wishes
Jean, Brian, Kelly, Samuel
& Thomas xxx

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latest stories and breaking news...
www.glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Public Notice

LICENSING ACT 2003
Section 17 (5)

Notice of Application for a Premises Licence
NOTICE IS GIVEN THAT
An application has been made to Bridgend County
Borough Council (the Licensing Authority) for a
PREMISES LICENCE

To permit licensable activities which it is proposed will be
carried on, on or from the premises shown below.
Details of the application may be inspected between the
hours of: Monday to Thursday 0830 to 1700 hours and
Friday 0830 to 1630 hours at Civic Offices, Angel Street,
Bridgend, CF31 4WB or by visiting the authority's website:
www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Any responsible authority or any other person may make
representations in respect of the application, which must
be submitted, in writing, to the following address before
the date shown below: Licensing Section, Bridgend
County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street,
Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

NAME OF APPLICANT: BANG-ON BREWERY
LIMITED. **NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE
PREMISES:**

UNIT 3, GEORGE ST, BRIDGEND INDUSTRIAL ESTATE,
BRIDGEND, CF31 3TS.

**STATEMENT OF INTENDED LICENSABLE
ACTIVITIES:** (1) On and off sales of alcohol
**DATE BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MUST
BE MADE:**

This notice remains in force from and including the day
after the giving of this notice to the licensing authority,
namely 9th November 2016, for 28 consecutive days.
It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false
statement in connection with an application.

The maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.
(1) This must include details of activities, type of entertainment
and appropriate days and times.

LICENSING ACT 2003 - Section 17 (5)

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website: www.bridgend.gov.uk.

Any responsible authority or any other person may make
representations in respect of the application, which must
be submitted, in writing, to the following address before
the date shown below: Licensing Section, Bridgend
County Borough Council, Civic Offices, Angel Street,
Bridgend, CF31 4WB.

NAME OF APPLICANT: Kinder Restaurants Limited
NAME AND POSTAL ADDRESS OF THE PREMISES:
Unit 2, Jennings Building, Portcawl, CF36 3YR.

**STATEMENT OF INTENDED LICENSABLE
ACTIVITIES:** (1):

Provision of Recorded Music every day from 8:00-23:30
including the below exceptions: - Bank Holiday
Weekends including Friday, Saturday and Sunday; Friday
- Start 08:00 - End 00:30; Saturday - Start 08:00 - End
00:30; Sunday - Start 08:00 - End 00:30. Throughout the
Elvis Weekend Festival: Thursday - Start 08:00 - End
00:30; Friday - Start 08:00 - End 00:30; Saturday - Start
08:00 - End 00:30.

Provision of live Music every day from 14:00-22:00
including the below exceptions: - Bank Holiday
Weekends including Friday, Saturday and Sunday; Friday
- Start 14:00 - End 22:30; Saturday - Start 14:00 - End
22:30; Sunday - Start 14:00 - End 22:30. Throughout the
Elvis Weekend Festival: Thursday - Start 12:00 - End
23:30; Friday - Start 12:00 - End 23:30; Saturday - Start
12:00 - End 23:30; Sunday - Start 12:00 - End 23:30.

Provision of Alcohol every day from 11:00-23:30
including the below exceptions: - Bank Holiday
Weekends including Friday, Saturday and Sunday; Friday
- Start 11:00 - End 00:00; Saturday - Start 11:00 - End
00:00; Sunday - Start 11:00 - End 00:00. Throughout the
Elvis Weekend Festival: Thursday - Start 11:00 - End
00:00; Friday - Start 11:00 - End 00:00; Saturday - Start
11:00 - End 00:00; Sunday - Start 11:00 - End 00:00.

Provision of Late Night Refreshment every day from
23:00-23:30.

DATE BY WHICH REPRESENTATIONS MUST BE MADE:
This notice remains in force from and including the day after the
giving of this notice to the licensing authority, namely 10/11/2016,
for 28 consecutive days. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to
make a false statement in connection with an application. The
maximum fine on summary conviction is £5,000.

(1) This must include details of activities, type of entertainment
and appropriate days and times.

Public Notice

**NOTICE OF CONFIRMATION
OF PUBLIC PATH ORDER
HIGHWAYS ACT 1980
THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN
COUNCIL
(PUBLIC FOOTPATH NO 12 ST
BRIDES-SUPER-ELY)
PUBLIC PATH DIVERSION ORDER 2015**

On the 11 October 2015 the Welsh Ministers confirmed
the above Order made under section 119 of the
Highways Act 1980.

The effect of the Order as confirmed is to divert the
public footpath as set out in the Schedule and shown in
the Order map.

A copy of the Order as confirmed and the order map
have been placed and may be seen free of charge at the
Deeds Office, Barry Deeds, Barry, CF63 4RT during
normal office hours. Copies of the Order and map may
be bought there at a price of £4.50.

This Order came into force on 11 October 2015, but if
a person aggrieved by the Order wants to question its
validity or that of any provision contained in it, on the
ground that it is not within the powers of the Highways
Act 1980, as amended, or on the ground that any
requirement of the Act, as amended, or of any regulation
made under the Act has not been complied with in
relation to the order, he or she may, under paragraph
2 of Schedule 2 to the Act as applied by paragraph
5 of Schedule 6 to the Act, within 6 weeks from 17
November 2015 make an application to the High Court.
Dated 17th November 2015



**HYSBYSIAD CADARNHAU
GORCHYMYN LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS
DEDDOFF PRIFYRDD 1980
GORCHYMYN CYNGOR BRO
MORGANNWG
(LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS RHIF 12
LLANSANFFRAID-AR-ELAI)
GWYRIAD LLWYBR CYHOEDDUS 2015**

Ar 11 Hydref 2015 cadarnhaodd Gweinidogion Cymru y
Gorchymyn uchod a wnaethpwyd dan adran 119 Deddf
Prifffyrdd 1980.

Diben y Gorchymyn hwn fel y'i cadarnhwyd yw
darglunio i fwylio cyhoeddus fel y'i nodir yn yr Amod
ac fel y'i dangosir yn y map o'r Gorchymyn.

Gellir gweld copi o'r Gorchymyn fel y'i cadarnhwyd a
map o'r Gorchymyn am ddim yn Swyddleddydd y Dociau,
Dociau'r Barri, y Barri, CF63 4RT yn ystod oriau
swyddleddydd arferol. Gellir prynu copiiau o'r Gorchymyn a'r
map yno am £4.50.

Deuth y Gorchymyn hwn i'n rym o 11 Hydref 2015 ond os
bydd person yn lacio ei fod wedi'i ddisgwyddo gan y
Gorchymyn ac yn amau ei ddilysrwydd, neu unrhyw
darnparhaeth sydd wedi'i cynnwys ynddo, ar y sail nael
yn ei fwrw pwrw Deddf Prifffyrdd 1980 fel y'i dangwydd,
neu ar y sail nael ei ddyfyniadau yn unrhyw un o ddyfyniadau
y Deddf fel y'i dangwydd, neu unrhyw reolad a wnaed
dan y Deddf fel y'i dangwydd o'r Gorchymyn, gall, dan
benparaff 2 Amod 2 y Deddf fel y'i nodir yn ymgydd
5 Amod 5 o'r Deddf, o fewn 6 wythnos o 17 Tachwedd
2015, wneud cais i'r Llys Uchel.
Dyddiedig 17 Tachwedd 2015

HISTORY MADE AS BARRY TOWN UNITED REACH MG CUP FINAL

HISTORY was re-written at Jenner Park last week, as Barry Town United became the first Welsh League team to reach the final of the Welsh Premier League's expanded Nathaniel MG Cup.

Pitted against three-time winners Carmarthen Town

in the first of two semi-finals, Barry showed hunger, determination and skill to see off their WPL foes at Jenner Park, with their famous 1-0 triumph confirming the club's first appearance in the national cup final since 2001.

An evenly-matched contest for much of the 90 minutes, the clash with Mark Aizlewood's Carmarthen was settled by a moment of pure brilliance from Barry striker Jordan Cotterill, who fired a sublime, 66th-minute free-kick beyond the Old Gold wall and goalkeeper Lee Idzi, from 25 yards.

After their exit from the JD Welsh Cup against Penybont three days earlier, the semi-final had quickly become a must-win for Gavin Chesterfield's squad, but any lingering disappointment from the prior weekend would only serve to fuel their efforts, as Barry rose to the occasion in emphatic fashion.

Cotterill's wonder strike made sweet reward for the season-high crowd of more than 500, with the loud and partisan home support providing an invaluable 12th man in the cold November rain.

With skipper James Saddler and defender Luke Cooper entering fine performances on the slick 3G surface, goalkeeper Mike Lewis made his commanding presence known on a number of occasions, while the second-half introduction of penalty taker Bobby Briers and fervent forward James Dixon added further fire to the fight, as the home side battled towards the finish line.

The closing moments saw Carmarthen, who captured the trophy as recently as 2014, throw the kitchen sink at Barry in pursuit of that elusive equaliser that would have forced extra-time.

Nevertheless, the hosts dug deep to keep their opponents at bay, prompting scenes of delirium at the final whistle, as spectators, players and officials alike celebrated a landmark achievement.

Having survived the most difficult period in its history, the midweek mayhem at Jenner Park served as another memorable chapter in the Town's revival story, with Barry fans now looking forward to a televised cup final in the New Year, something that some thought they might never see again.

The second semi-final between The New Saints and Connah's Quay was to be played on Tuesday, with a date and location for the final to be confirmed after Barry's opponents are determined.

At the time of writing, holders TNS had won all 17 of their domestic fixtures in the 2016-17 campaign, while maintaining a 100 per cent record as a guest entrant in Scotland's IRN-BRU Cup.

Meanwhile, the Nomads currently sit in second in the Welsh Premier League and are the only outfit to have beaten the superlative Saints on two different occasions in 2016.

Both teams were winners in Europe this summer, with Connah's Quay advancing in the UEFA Europa League and TNS making further progress in the UEFA Champions League to boot.

This Saturday afternoon sees the Town return to Welsh League Division One matters, when Taffs Well are the visitors to Jenner Park (2pm kick-off).

A typically competitive affair, the sides have met every season since the Town's relegation from the Welsh Premier League in 2004.

AC

Cottrell Park ladies enjoy end of season presentation



The second team.

ON Wednesday, November 9, the ladies of Cottrell Park Golf Club enjoyed an excellent meal at their end of season dinner.

The new ladies' captain Jeannette Williams welcomed everyone, following the meal, reports were given on the team's progress during the year on behalf of Helen Poole, first team captain, and Helen Evans, second team captain.

Both thanked all the ladies who participated in the team matches.

They gave their results of the competitions which were a mixture of wins and losses - both teams remained in their respective divisions. Vicki Long will be the next first team captain.

The two younger members of the teams were congratulated on their play and their drop in handicap, Eleanor Lewis from 12 to 10 and

Megan Cullinane from 19 to 14. Both will be playing in the first team next year.

Lorraine Pointon-Bell reported on the friendly teams - it had been a good year with the teams all very friendly, she also thanked all the ladies who had taken part.

The results were as usual an 'honourable draw' and Jeannette presented Lorraine with a bouquet of flowers.

A happy and enjoyable evening was had by all.

Margaret Rees is pictured left being presented with the ladies trophy on the



Margaret Rees picks up her trophy.

20th anniversary presented by Jeannette Williams, ladies' captain, with Lorraine Pointon-Bell, vice captain, in attendance at Presentation night.

The trophy was CB

BRYNHILL LADIES' SECTION'S PRESENTATION EVENING WAS A 'GLITTERING AFFAIR'

The ladies' presentation evening at Brynhill Golf Club on November 12 was as usual a glittering affair.

The trophies were on display ready to be presented by the ladies' captain Liz Fine and her vice-captain Olwen Thomas to all the lady winners and runners-up.

There were many trophies to present which included the major cups, which are as follows:

Ladies' club championship, winner - Gemma Evans, runner-up - Sam Pascoe; Diack Championship, winner - Elizabeth Taylor, runner-up - Jo Hopkins; ladies' club championship, winner - Gemma Evans, runner-up - Sam Pascoe.

Gemma who had already been presented with five trophies, was a worthy winner of the championship trophy.

The lady golfer of the year was awarded to Andrea Page who was a well-deserved winner.

The Jenny Williams trophy was presented to Jen Pugh. This trophy is presented by the ladies' captain to the lady who has done most to help her during her year of office.

A good night was had by all who attended the presentation, with many filling their trophies with the special cocktails that Kath, the bar manager, concocted for the evening.

Mike Briscoe supplied the entertainment for the evening and the members danced the night away.

Thanks were extended to the course manager Iain Grant, and to Kath Foran and her bar staff.

JK



Ladies champion Gemma Evans with Liz Fine.



Liz Taylor, Diack winner.



Andrea Page, lady golfer of the year.

Cieran and Ffion to surf for Wales

CIERAN HUGHES (Year 12) and Ffion Hughes (Year 10) of Cowbridge Comprehensive School have been selected to surf in the European Surfing Junior Championships for Wales in Morocco in December.

The team are scheduled to visit Morocco from December 1-12. We would like to congratulate Cieran as he has been asked to be the team captain for this championship. Ffion is the only girl in the team and will be competing in the under-18s category; we

would also like to congratulate her.

Cieran performed extremely well in the ISA World Junior Surfing Championships in The Azores in September, being the highest placed Welsh surfer in the competition and second highest placed surfer from the home nations.

Ffion competed in the British Nationals in Perranporth in October. She is British Champion in her category, winning the under-14 girls' section - well done both!

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Girls' football at Llancarfan!



Llancarfan Primary School girls team.

LLANCARFAN Primary School planted a footballing acorn just before half-term and we forecast that a mighty oak will grow.

Barry Town United Ladies Football Club staged a primary girls' competition on the pitches of St Cyres School in Penarth on October 21.

The team of seven girls was cobbled together at the last minute and had only achieved a mighty 20 minutes practice before the big event.

Three closely-matched, friendly and energetic games followed and Llancarfan won one and narrowly lost the other two. The girls' performance inspired the formation of a new Llancarfan football team, so with a bit of practice, who knows what we can achieve?

Huge thanks to Barry Town Ladies FC, St Cyres and the other teams for a great afternoon.

RB

Under-14s involved in Blues Cup action



COWBRIDGE under-14s entertained Treorchy Zebras on Sunday in the Blues Cup, a fine sunny late autumn day, ideal for running rugby - and neither side would disappoint.

Both sides fought hard to assert themselves and there was very little between the two teams, until a 10 minute purple patch just before half-time when the visitors ran in a brace of tries, all of them well taken.

At this point it would have been easy for the home side to capitulate, but the fight back began in earnest immediately after half-time. With the Cowbridge pack

asserting their dominance at set pieces, some stalwart defence from Lucas Reid, Dave Harris and Wil Clarke saw the Cowbridge backs run the ball from their own 25 with Luke Gregory at centre, running in a fine solo try, outstripping defenders and sprinting a full 60 metres to score a much-needed try. This was the catalyst for Cowbridge's resurgence.

Shortly after, another good move saw Jakob Thiesen caught just before the line, by desperate corner flagging from the Treorchy defenders within minutes.

Again, from their own 25, the ball was spread wide by Cowbridge to Iestyn Pithers at full back running a mazy line to

the 25, when David Avery took the pass and strongly shrugged off three tacklers to score under the posts.

Cowbridge had an excellent second half, and again were left to rue a period of poor tackling in the first half which left the final score 24-12, not truly reflective of the game overall, but a well contested and entertaining encounter.

On balance, it was a much improved performance from the lads, with individual players worthy of mention being Ellis Greenwood, Iwan Bartle and Lloyd Bennett.

TD

Full-strength under-11s shine

THIS week Cowbridge under-11s hosted Dinas Powys with a full complement of players available for the town.

The squad were mixed for the morning's games which were reduced to one game each for the squad due to the late withdrawal of a second team scheduled to make up a round-robin series.

The first game started strongly for Cowbridge dominating in a number of areas of the game, strong running by James Lord opened the account for

Cowbridge, immediately followed by L Thomas receiving the ball from the kick-off and barnstorming his way through for the second try.

Cowbridge seemed to switch-off and missed tackles allowed Dinas back into the game with a try of their own.

Good anticipation by Harry Smith in the centre saw an interception returned for a try to Cowbridge only to be quickly answered by a try for Dinas.

Again James Lord showed his strong running from the back line converting his second with great timing and quick feet. Unfortunately, Dinas were quick to answer with another try just

before the whistle, final score, 4-3 to Cowbridge.

The second game saw a new team for Cowbridge run out against Dinas, and the boys started quicker than their opponents.

Early pressure capitalised with Owen Francis going over for an early try. Strong forward play at the breakdown was rewarded with Ollie Gale driving over from the loose ball, and a trademark dummy run by Osian Bruce saw him diving over from fly half.

Osian continued his dominance in the pivotal backline position and went over for two further tries to complete his hat-trick for the morning.

Good defensive work was eventually overturned and Dinas pulled one back only to be quickly answered by a backline move that saw Harry New show his pace and run in from his own half to stretch the lead further.

Dinas continued to play open rugby and managed to pull back another try.

However, it was quickly neutralised by Ioan Phillips picking the ball up at the breakdown, showing classy skills in open play and a turn of pace that took him over the line to cement the victory. Final score 11-5 to Cowbridge.

IC

Tim in an 'across the card double'

ABERTHIN'S Tim Vaughan has an across the card double last Friday.

At Ludlow his five-year-old *Show's Over*, ridden by T J O'Brien, came home four-and-a-half lengths ahead of *Adarena* in the novices' chase, and later in the day, at Towcester, his *Tannit River*, partnered by Alan Johns, won the novices' handicap chase by 21 lengths from the Jonjo O'Neill-trained *Wait A Second*.

The bottom weighted *Show's Over* was a 7-2 chance and *Tannit River*, who had finished second in its two previous races, was returned at odds of 2-1.

EVAN'S 68-1 DOUBLE
Llancarfan's Evan Williams landed a 68-1 double at Uttoxeter on Saturday.

He took the opening novices' hurdle with the four-year-old bay gelding *Report To Base*, who was backed from 9-2 to 3-1, and the novices' limited handicap chase with 16-1 outsider *Pobbles Bay*, a six-year-old bay gelding who like *Report To Base* was ridden by Grand National winning jockey Leighton Aspell.

Report To Base got home by half-a-length from *Kafella* and

Pobbles Bay won easing-up by sixteen lengths from *CrossPark*.

At Cheltenham in the £160,000 BetVictor Gold Cup Handicap Chase, Evan saw his *Buywise*, who was runner-up to *Annacotty* in last year's race, make up a tremendous amount of ground in the closing stages to finish third behind Jonjo O'Neill's *Taquin Du Seul* and *Village Vic* beaten just a neck and two lengths.

Buywise, who was running on really well at the finish, was ridden by stable jockey Paul Moloney.

VALE HORSES 1-2
Vale horses On The Road and Fraser Canyon fought out the finish of the ToteTrifecta Handicap Hurdle at Fontwell on Sunday.

On The Road, a six-year-old bay gelding trained by Llancarfan's Evan Williams, and who was ridden by Adam Wedge, finished a length-and-a-quarter ahead of Aberthin's Tim

Vaughan's *Fraser Canyon* who was partnered by Alan Johns.

On The Road, who was racing in public for the first time in 255 days, and who was a winner of its previous two races, went off the 11-4 favourite.

The principal race of the day, the TotePool Southern National Handicap Chase over three miles and three furlongs, and worth £15,825 to the winner, was won by the Paul Nicholls-trained *Aerial* who was ridden by Bargoed's Jordan Williams, a graduate of the pony racing circuit and who was having only his third ride over National Hunt fences.

Another Welsh rider Sean Bowen, son of Pembrokeshire National Hunt trainer Peter Bowen, kept the Welsh flag flying when landing a double for Nicholls when scoring on *More Buck's* and *Peak To Peak*.

BRIAN LEE

Bridge results

RESULTS from the Vale of Glamorgan Results club for November 7:

1st Mike Best & Kevin Maddox 65.18%, 2nd Mike Pownell & Liz Atkinson 57.82%, 3rd Barrie Waite & Graham Norris 56.12%.

LE

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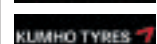


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The bare XV of Cowbridge RFC earn valuable away victory

COWBRIDGE RFC travelled to high-flying Old Penarthians with a bare XV, having suffered several late withdrawals.

They took a little while to settle down and Old Pens took advantage when the Cowbridge defence failed to cover a loose kick through and the home side were 7-0 up after just five minutes.

Cowbridge were soon on the scoresheet themselves when a good tackle by outside half Alex Guard forced a penalty, which Ben Wright calmly converted from 44 metres. That settled Cowbridge down and they started to show their intentions with some good counter attacking.

Having gained good field position the forwards then exerted their own pressure on the home defence with a series of drives that saw second row Kieron David crash over on 15 minutes, with Rhod Walker in close support. Wright converted for a 10-7 lead to Cowbridge.

Cowbridge lost right wing Rian Thomas to injury on 30 minutes and had to play the remainder of the game with 14 players. Old Pens soon attacked down that wing and with skipper Howson inexplicably kicking the ball over his own try line, Old Pens were denied a try when the referee was unfortunately too far behind play to see the ball being grounded, a big let off for Cowbridge.

They were denied a further score a couple of minutes later when the second row was correctly adjudged to have grounded the ball but only after a double movement, having been tackled short of the line.

As their frustration grew the home side were reduced to 14 men on 35 minutes with their blindsided lucky to be given only a yellow card after his boot connected with a Cowbridge head.

Cowbridge finished the half applying pressure and a dropped home team pass saw Wright chasing down a kick through, only to be impeded in the corner. Cowbridge were rightly

awarded a penalty try on the stroke of half-time to take a 17-7 lead.

Cowbridge started the second half in attacking mood and the forwards set a good platform for the young half backs to test the home defence. Cowbridge pressure won a penalty on 47 minutes, but Wright failed to convert from 35 metres.

The home side started to enjoy some good possession themselves and were camped in the Cowbridge 22 for a long period, exerting a lot of pressure on the line.

This proved to be a pivotal period of the game and the travelling support had a feeling that a home score was imminent, but a determined defensive effort by the 14 men of Cowbridge kept them at bay and time and again frustrated the home team.

There was a growing sense that the game was going away from them and when their No 8 failed to put the left wing clear following a well-worked set piece with 10 minutes to go, their heads dropped even further.

The Cowbridge forwards however grew stronger, driving strongly and recycling the ball well for the backs who continued to test the home defence with some darting runs and good support play.

The last scoring chance of the match came on 74 minutes when Old Pens infringed again and Wright hit the post with the penalty kick from 40 metres.

It was a great performance by Cowbridge to see out the game with a 17-7 win and a sterling effort indeed to keep the second half scoreless despite being a man down. It was especially pleasing to see youngsters Craig Boxall (typifying the effort of the forwards) and Johnny Graham (putting in a man of the match performance at centre).

There is no game this Saturday as Wales are playing Japan, then Cowbridge face Tonyrefail at home on November 26. This is likely to be an early kick-off as Wales play South Africa at 5.30pm.

We then face Caerul Ely away on December 3 and the final game of 2016 is Llantwit Major away on December 17.

A final reminder to the bon vivants at the club, the annual Beaujolais tasting will take place this Thursday, November 17 - accompanying the wine will be a selection of cheeses, breads and pickles; a votre saint.

GT/RV/RK

CRICKET CLUB HOLDS PRESENTATION EVENING

THE Cowbridge Cricket Club annual presentation evening was held on Friday, November 11 at the Athletic Club, where 95 players, members, guests and friends turned up for a delightful four course meal which was enjoyed by all.

Guests of honour were Simon Jones MBE the former England and Glamorgan fast bowler, Peter Hybart, chief executive of Cricket Wales, John Griffiths, chairman of Cowbridge RFC, and Richard Green, owner of Abbey Glass and chief sponsor to the club.

Presentations were made to the following deserved recipients:

The 'H' Trophy sponsored by Abbey Glass first XI player of the year went to Tom Merilhat, who also received the SWCA Division One top scorer of the year (625 runs ave. 78.13); second XI player of the year was David Gascoyne, who was also awarded the SWCA highest scorer in Division Five (701 runs ave. 78.3) and most dismissals (25 - 16 catches and nine stumpings); young player of the year - Heath Webb; Ben Wright Trophy 'club and beyond' - Sian Russell (Wales under-14s); Peter Finucane Award 'catch it' - Jonathan Smart; club person of the year - Sarah Russell; individual awards to members of the under-15s team, winners of the league and cup, Cardiff and Vale junior league.

Raffle results were as follows: four Blues tickets - Chris Harris; two T20 tickets for Glamorgan - Graham Roberts; four-baller at St. Athan Golf Club - Harry Donithorne; bottle of whiskey - Gareth John; Simon Jones book - Barrie White; club tie and book on the history of Cowbridge CC - Tom and Matt Harper.

Following the dinner, chairman Hugh Williams gave a short resume of the year. He congratulated Chris Willey and his team for maintaining first division status.

Jonathan Smart's second XI finished third in the fifth division and may have the opportunity to get promoted. The T20 midweek team entertain each time they play.

The junior teams continue to thrive with



success coming to the under-15s.

Huw thanked all the committee for their hard work and dedication in fundraising in the main. The club has acquired this year a new outfield grass cutter, new matting for the outdoor nets, revamped the score box, renewed one of the broken sight screens thanks to parent Paul Davies and painted the outside of the clubhouse.

Most importantly, various persons attended courses to satisfy ECB regulations for coaching young people. Two further level 2 coaches were trained and 12 parents became coach support workers.

Hugh also outlined the plans for next year. There is a need to build a new shed, recruit more senior players, maintain our junior players and promote to senior teams, form a junior parents committee and keep Tim Williams as our groundsman.

The last hour of the evening was most entertaining. Former Wales international rugby player Rhys Williams interviewed Simon Jones, who answered questions from various people.

Simon gave in-depth answers from his cricket professional career. The hour was full of wit, honesty, stories and insight into the life of an international cricketer - a thoroughly enjoyable cricket evening.

He wished all a safe journey home, in the hope of seeing even more friends of the club next year.

HW



Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, November 8 the first rounds of the Clive Blick Trophy (CBT) knockout competition were held. The Farmers Arms and Victoria Inn were the host pubs on this occasion.

At the Victoria Inn, last year's CBT winners, Sally McCaver, Rob McCaver and John Izzard (Hairy Farmers), after an early scare and a very competitive 2-1 semi-final win against, Allyson Thompson, Lee Davies and Gerry Austin (Llanharri) are through to the final to defend their title.

They will be playing the Gratton family, Lisa Gratton, Tony Gratton and Ryan Gratton (Six Bells Inn) who were unstoppable in the games played at the Farmers Arms. They beat Pam Adams, Dave Thomas and Owen Carter (Farmers Arms) in their Semi-Final. The final will be held on November 29 at the

Edmond's Arms. Present league standings, after seven weeks, are: Edmond's B (44 points), Six Bells Inn (43), Highwayman Inn (39), Edmond's A (38), Llanharri (34), Farmers Arms and Edmond's C (30), Hairy Farmers (29), Victoria Inn (24) and Red Lion (4).

Next week (Tuesday, November 22) a full programme of league matches is scheduled. The Victoria Inn hosts Llanharri, the Edmond's

A hosts the Edmond's C, the Farmers Arms hosts the Red Lion hosts the Edmond's B and the Six Bells Inn hosts the

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are always welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

Two gold medals for showjumping Stephanie!



STEPHANIE BROWNBILL (15) who goes to Cowbridge Comprehensive School was recently selected to represent Wales in its junior showjumping team at the English Home Pony International competition in Cheshire during the half-term holidays.

Steph was selected by the Welsh chef d'equipe to compete for Wales in both the 148 Performance team on her pony *Ching Ching* and in the biggest team event, the 148 team competition, on her pony *Ridge End Reberto*.

Steph didn't get a single fault in all four of her rounds and this helped to secure Wales a gold medal in both events. The jumps were massive, finishing at 4'3.

The competition is extremely high at this level of competition with the best riders and ponies from England Scotland Ireland and Wales competing for gold.

We are so proud of Steph and her team members.

CB

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The GEM - FLYING THE FLAG FOR WALES!



Pumas caged, but more is now expected against Japan

by DON JOHN

AFTER the previous week's depressingly limp defeat to Australia, the depleted 50,000 crowd at Cardiff's Principality Stadium on Saturday knew that Wales v Argentina, on the sombre occasion of Remembrance, was never going to be a memorable rugby classic.

...And so it turned out, though in fairness, the Welsh camp was focused on one thing only – a win, no matter what – to restore national pride and confidence and get back on track against tough, durable opponents now hardened by combat in the southern hemisphere.

In this respect, and to their credit, they succeeded admirably – answering critics with a much more urgent display that kept the dangerous Pumas caged without completely restraining them – the outcome only finally decided by the reliable boot of full back Leigh Halfpenny, now thankfully recovered from long-term injury and back in his country's colours.

In contrast to the porous defence that had generously given surprised Wallaby runners the freedom of Cardiff and leaked a clutch of tries, this time a more combative, controlled line-up, showing six changes (two enforced) faced up to the physical threat from the outset, led from the front by perennially young match skipper Gethin Jenkins and peerless man-of-the-match Alun Wyn Jones – despite still coping with the sad loss of his father.

Just as in the previous week, the visitors went ahead within minutes of the start through a penalty, but when a second attempt failed, Halfpenny stepped up to equalise and when Argentina were again penalised soon afterwards, he edged Wales ahead (6-3).

A lengthy period of sustained pressure deep in Puma territory saw outstanding wing Liam Williams' brave attempted touchdown in the corner thwarted; and a spate of penalty awards spurned; intense Welsh efforts failing to put further points on the board before halftime – which many feared would prove costly later.

However, the restart saw Wales back on the attack, this time Liam Williams capping a scintillating move wide out, to take Wales into an 11-3 lead – which was almost immediately reduced to a single point with a converted try; only for scrum half Gareth Davies to finally reward Welsh pressure with a try close in, converted by Halfpenny, to make it 18-10.

The seesaw exchanges saw the dogged Pumas twice bring the score back to a one-point deficit with a second converted try and a penalty that took it right down to the wire; but Halfpenny then settled the issue with two accurately-struck place kicks to give Wales a hard-fought 24-20 win, to the obvious relief of the embattled Welsh camp.

However, all the coaches know that welcome though this win was, there can be no taking the foot off the gas in the third home match of the Under Armour autumn series against Japan on Saturday.

While the latter certainly cannot be taken lightly, a similar narrow win over the international 'minnows' may not be enough to ease pressure on Wales to continue to progress, and regain the form that has brought them such glittering success in the Gatland era.

Serbia draw dents World Cup hopes... Another home draw puts Wales on the back foot in the race for Russia

by GARETH JAMIESON

WHEN many people point to where the revival of Wales' football fortunes took place, most point to the 6-1 mauling received at the hands of Serbia in 2012.

After that drubbing, a result so severe that Chris Coleman (who had been at the helm a mere matter of months) considered quitting his role as manager, Wales turned it round to defeat Scotland in an epic game in the pouring rain of the Cardiff City Stadium.

However, Wales' results post-Scotland were still a mixed bag, the only other win coming in the snow of Hampden Park against the same opposition. The real watershed (in this writer's opinion) came in the 3-0 dismantling by Serbia in Cardiff, nearly a year to the day of that 6-1 drubbing.

A wake-up call both tactically and spiritually, Wales' progress since that night has been incredible, encompassing lengthy unbeaten runs, clean sheets galore and of course qualification for (and making up the last four of) Euro 2016.

It's understandable then that Serbia should be so closely connected to Wales' successes (and failures), the bête noir of recent times. So what better time to face them than with them topping qualifying group D for the 2018 World Cup on seven points, Wales (after the disappointing 1-1 home draw with Georgia) trailing them in third place (behind the Republic of Ireland) on five points.

While that Georgia game had seen Wales shorn of Joe Allen and Aaron Ramsey, highlighting the lack of strength in depth, both returned to the starting line-up on Saturday evening, a much-needed boost for a game that was tricky before a ball had even been kicked, and now took on monumental significance after the last round of fixtures (made even more important by the Republic of Ireland's 1-0 win in Austria hours earlier).

Serbia are no pushovers, and their position at the top of the group is not a case of early pacesetters lacking the legs for the race ahead. If Wales had looked at this game and Georgia with the intent of taking four points, the draw last month put added pressure on getting a result (and delivering a performance) against the group leaders.

It was pressure that Wales seemed to shrug off in the early stages, Serbia having the ball but few opportunities as tactically-altered Wales, playing with a back four, seemed comfortable marshalling any Serbian attack.

It had all the hallmarks of this early stage of being a scrappy affair, and so it proved until Hal Robson Kanu (recalled to partner Sam Vokes up front in a bold move from Chris Coleman) tirelessly worked an opening for Gareth Bale, and the Real Madrid star fizzed a low drive into the back of the net to give the team a lead that would hopefully settle the nerves.

When Serbia got a foothold they looked capable but rarely dangerous, the more narrow tactics employed by Coleman seeing the men in red stretched at times, while Wales' attacking play, even



Hal Robson Kanu put in a good shift as he was recalled to the team.
ALL PICTURES BY HUW EVANS AGENCY



Aaron Ramsey's return from injury strengthened the quality in the Welsh team.

with two strikers, lacked the finesse and accuracy required to add to the lead.

As the game wore on it seemed the stage was set for Wales to grab a vital win, and three valuable points, against their nearest rivals in the race for Russia. But in the space of 60 seconds, everything was thrown into disarray. A Welsh attack saw Bale strike again, this time with his right foot, only to see the effort rebound off the post and miss any contact from a Welsh shirt.

The ball found its way upfield, and the ball was crossed in to Newcastle United's Aleksandar Mitrovic, who found space between tiring Welsh defenders to head home off the post and earn Serbia a battling, and not entirely undeserved point that puts a dent in Wales' World Cup hopes.

Four points adrift of leaders Republic of Ireland, Wales must travel to Dublin next March knowing anything less than a win could be the death knell for their qualification dreams, especially since their next game is the return with Serbia.

While not over by a long shot, the pressure is now on a Wales team whose ascent up the rankings, and whose profile has never been bigger, now sees them regarded as a scalp. The plucky Wales of the summer is no more – the team shouldn't just be surprised at any success that comes their way.

Instead they must grasp the responsibility and expectation that comes with being top seeds in the group, the 11th best team in the world – and draws at home to Georgia and Serbia are not the results you would expect from teams in that position.

You could argue there are mitigating circumstances; we weren't at our strongest against Georgia, while Serbia are a far better team than rankings and seedings suggest, but at home these are games that, in order to qualify, we could, and should, have won.

It's ominous to note that of the six remaining games, all but two are away from home, tricky trips to Georgia and Moldova among them, and with wins essential, any wiggle room we may have thought we would have at this stage is gone.

Since the opening win over Moldova, we have drawn three games, but taken the lead in all of



Chris Coleman changed his tactics, but couldn't get the vital three points.

them (twice against Austria), highlighting that game management is something that appears to be lacking, while our watertight defence, a hallmark of the qualifying success for European Championships, is now looking a tad leaky, whether we are operating a flat back four or three at the back, and the energy levels of the players appears to be low (unsurprising when certain players have only just returned from injury or aren't getting game time at their clubs).

While these issues are critical in the bigger picture, it's nothing that Chris Coleman, his back room staff and the team themselves won't be unaware of, and will no doubt be seeking to rectify come March.

While Dublin won't be an easy place to go to, Wales should have nothing to fear from Martin O'Neill's men in what will be a closely-fought and pivotal contest in terms of this group.

World Cup qualification isn't over by a long shot – there's plenty of more football to be played and a few twists and turns left in this group – but for Wales, anything but a win in Dublin could be the beginning of the end of our dreams of making it Russia in 2018.



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